

Nicolson THE *Calvert*

HISTORIES

OF

Lady FRANCES S——,

AND

Lady CAROLINE S——.

Written by the Miss MINIFIES,
Of Fairwater, in Somersetshire.

VOL. I.

LONDON.

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Chris: Calverts



T O

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Of Haswell, in Somersetshire.

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WE have ventured to send into the world, under your Ladyship's protection, a Novel, intitled, *The Histories of Lady Frances and Lady Caroline S——*, wrote with the warmest sentiments of virtue and honour.

Here your Ladyship will see a helpless Orphan, conducted by the hand of Providence to the guardian and director of her tender years, perfected and compleated with all the ornaments and embellishments

A 2

human

DEDICATION.

human nature is capable of receiving.

We flatter ourselves these characters will amuse your Ladyship, when your mind is unbent from more noble employments; which will answer all our intentions, and give us an opportunity of acknowledging ourselves

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T H E



THE
HISTORIES
OF
Lady FRANCES *and* Lady
CAROLINE S-----.

Lady LUCY WALTON *to Miss*
HAMILTON.

***HARMING delightful
C Ashley! how reluctantly
*** did I quit thy peaceful soli-
tude for the noise and hurry of Lon-
don.—The first ten miles after I
parted with my Juliet and her ami-
able cousins, I saw nothing but
hedges stripped of their verdure, and

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thought

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thought on nothing but the entertaining scenes I left behind me.— Though my body is dragged away from you, my mind still hovers about sweet Ashley-Park, sometimes with your good (aunt, I was going to say ; but is she not as much a mother to my dear Miss Hamilton, as to her own Harriot and Charlotte ?) thanking her for those civilities she has lavished on me these three last happy months, spent at that seat of social harmony. From Mrs. Wentworth's apartment I go to yours ; there I find all my dear girls, chat of a thousand agreeable things, or, if it happens to be a fine morning, stroll with you into my favourite walk, which summer has so well fortified, that winter, advanced as it is in all its horrors, has not yet been able

able to conquer it. With such reflections I beguiled the heavy hours, taking off the fatigue of a journey which, without them, must have been tedious and disagreeable.—At my arrival in Grosvenor-Square, I found the best of fathers waiting to receive me ; who has not enjoyed his health so many months together since the death of my mother ; but at this time seems free from all disorders, having a sound mind in a sound body. — Lord Ormsby, as usual, all life and spirit, tells me, I ought to make my lowest court'sey, as Lady Townly says, thank him down to the very ground, for having put off a visit to Heartly-Abbey, on purpose to see me at my return ; suspecting I may have been spoiled by your indulgence, and want some

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wholesome lessons to set me in order.—I am to present his compliments to the hospitable family which so kindly entertains strollers; and since such a vagrant, as his sister, meets encouragement from them, he is determined, he says, to try his own interest, as soon as he comes back from Lord Edgmore's. You are a mad creature, was my answer, and must not expect that people in their right senses will receive you. I have given his Lordship room to hope the winter will not approach much farther before we are favoured with your company. My father longs to see ladies so remarkable for their fine sense and genteel accomplishments; besides, their presence (he was pleased to add) would afford him a double satisfaction, as he
should

and Lady Caroline S——. 5

should be then sure of enjoying more of his Lucy. This tender compliment from such a parent, was more acceptable to me than the most studied eloquence from any other man in the universe ; and must be my excuse for repeating it.—I have this moment a card from Lady Frances S——, daughter to the Duke of ——, requesting me to be of her party at a masquerade next Thursday. I shall readily attend her, if I can prevail on my brother to give us his company, leaving my letter unfinished to seek him. I will soon acquaint you with the success of my petition, being uncertain whether he will have it in his power to oblige me, as he has fixed on that day for going to Heartly-Abbey.

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I have returned her Ladyship an answer in the affirmative ; my brother's affection having never yet suffered him to pronounce to me that significant monosyllable, *No.*—Quite charmed am I with the thoughts of meeting Lady Frances, not having seen her since we parted at Chelsea : we were then but children. I left the school some time before her Ladyship, with great regret ; she being of so sweet a disposition, that I loved her as a sister. She is but lately returned from Audley-Castle in Suffex ; the seat of Lord Henry S——, her uncle, where she has resided two years.—Is it not surprizing, as she is an only child, that the Duke and Dutcheſs could consent to so long a separation?—to me it is unaccountable.

accountable.—Lady Clayton, Lady Ellers, and Miss Blount, send up their names; I must attend them. So many congratulatory how-d'ye's on my arrival, that I have scarce a minute uninterrupted. Assure yourself, my dear, that were I inclinable to vanity on being thus seemingly distinguished, my pride would be sufficiently humbled in recollecting that it is a mark of respect conferred on all, and which all claim by the rules of good-breeding, from time immemorial: whether deserving or not deserving is never considered on these occasions.—My brother has already bespoke my habit, but will not let me know into what I shall be metamorphosed 'till it is brought home.—The ladies who have just left me, together with the Hon.

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Miss Houghton and Miss Carlton are to be of our party.—Lord H—— desires, by a particular message, that I will favour him with a quarter of an hour's audience : a very unexpected visitor ! he knows my determination, from which nothing shall ever make me recede, having often declared I never can give him the least preference. Indeed, that man whose addresses I could accept is yet a stranger to my eyes : however, since Lord H—— requests another conversation, no doubt with a design of entering on the same subject, I will not refuse to hear him ; but depend on it, I am resolved to insist on the prerogative my father has given me, to approve or disapprove, as I think fit ; and once more to repeat my denial
in

and Lady Caroline S—: 9

in terms he shall not be able to evade.—

His Lordship is gone away in a state of mortification, having exhausted numberless arguments to no purpose, which might not have wanted force, had they been used against any person less determined than myself: however, I have now reason to hope it will be the last trouble I shall receive from that quarter.—I did not intend to dispatch my letter 'till I could send you some account of the masquerade; but dreading the imputation of neglect, my gratitude bids me hasten to assure my friends, that to be always thinking on them is the highest pleasure that can be felt by their affectionate

LUCY WALTON.

B 5

Lady

Lady LUCY WALTON to *Miss*
HAMILTON.

JOY to my Juliet, joy to every dear friend at Ashley. If you do not already know the occasion, take it now as it occurs on recollection.—The important Thursday arrived; the ladies mentioned in my last, attended by your Lucy, Sir Robert Fenton, Mr. Temple, the Hon. Mr. Bruce, and my brother, being joined by Lady Frances S——, and Lord Milford, who is among the numbers of her admirers, sallied forth for the Hay-Market: the rooms were full and remarkably brilliant; all our party was soon promiscuously engaged, by kings, quack-doctors, Roman senators, chimney-

chimney-sweepers, and the devil : the last tempted me with much oratory to dance a minuet, that mortals might see he was not entirely disregarded even by goddesses ; my good brother having for that night made me empress of the moon : so Mr. Temple (for it was he who personated the grand deceiver) knowing the small pretensions I had to my kingdom in the upper regions, presumed to accost me thus freely. Although I told the mischievous monarch that his influence was already too great in a world where he had so many worshippers, yet, like our first parent, I could not long resist his eloquence ; but had I not known him under his disguise for a spirit of the gentlest nature, and much esteemed by you all, I should

not have assented to his proposal with the alacrity I did.—Whilst he was thanking me for my condescension, a gardener, selecting a fine flower from a basket of various sorts, with a genteel air presented it to me, politely saying, he hoped an offering, pure as my divinity, would not be rejected. His conversation then turned on the nature and beauty of the plants he held ; in which he made many just and entertaining similies between the vegetable and gay world. I was very attentive ; but Mr. Temple uncommonly so : which I attributed to his high relish for observations rational in themselves, and delivered in a manner agreeably instructive : when breaking out at once, I think I should not be unacquainted with that voice, said

and Lady Caroline S——. 13

said he. Good God ! my dear Frank, replied the stranger, this is an unexpected happiness ; I heard you was gone into the country : then taking off his mask, your resemblance stood before me in such lively colours, that I was startled to a degree which I fear did not pass unobserved.—Every feature, every look the same. Lord ! my dear ! I hope this strange accident has not made me appear very ridiculous in Sir William's eyes ; for need I tell you, this gardener was the brother of my Juliet, who after an absence of so many years is at last restored to her wishes. Had I not then reason to congratulate those hearts, who never feel a pleasure of which I do not participate ; or a pain, which I would not be the first in removing.

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ing.—Great satisfaction was expressed by both at this accidental interview. I heard Sir William tell Mr. Temple, that it being late when he came to town, a rambling humour prevailed on him to make one in this entertainment ; and that he had not wrote to you of his being in England, as he came over some months sooner than he at first intended, and should now see you before you could possibly hear of it.—I danced several dances, but could not prevail on Lady Frances to join in them : about one o'clock she retired, followed by Lord Milford, who is very assiduous in paying his court to her. I did not return 'till late, though impatient to descend from my altitudes some hours before ; but my inclinations meeting with opposition, I yielded

yielded to superior numbers.—Mr. Temple, who has promised to go with Sir William into Berkshire, will send early for this letter. That I might be the first in my congratulations, those hours I used to dedicate to sleep, are now yours.—Lady Frances's tender reception of me, was a convincing proof that she still possesses the same agreeable temper, which had endeared her to me, when neither scarce knew what was meant by the word friendship. She has attained the highest perfection of beauty; but wanting a descriptive pen to do her justice, and not wishing to deface charms in another, through a consciousness of my own inferiority, I forbear attempting to describe what nature has made inimitable; so shall only say, her person

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son is calculated to dignify the character she assumed, which was that of an Indian princess.—Her hair, brought over her head in a large tuft, supported the circle of royalty that adorned it ; being a coronet of jewels : the shining brown, and fineness of its texture, adding lustre to their natural brilliancy. She had a robe and sandals of the purest white ; richly embroidered with gold : and her whole form was so noble, that those who stood near her, appeared diminutive, as wanting charms to attract a look ; while she, without seeming conscious of her power, engrossed them all.—Wherever she moved, that part of the room was like the temple of some favourite saint, to whom all resorted without distinction : yet eagerly did she shun
the

the crowd that followed her ; admiration not being alike desirable to all women.

Having leisure and inclination to let you know some of our dresses, I must now take your attention from Lady Frances, to engage it for Miss Carlton ; whom I shall present you as a shepherdess ; nor can Sydney's Arcadia boast one more lovely. Her jacket was pea-green, buttoned close with diamonds ; shewing a very delicate shape to advantage. Her hair bound with a garland of artificial flowers, coming so near to nature that you could almost have fancied them glowing on their native beds. A crook, ornamented after the same manner, received peculiar grace from the hand in which it was retained. Lady Clayton, Lady Eilers,

lers, and Miss Houghton, wore domino's; Miss Blount the habit of a nun.—I have already told you that mine was of my brother's choosing; and represented the dress of Diana: never had I such difficulty in complying with any request of his, knowing myself incapable of moving in so exalted a sphere.—My robe was azure, spangled with stars: on my head I bore a large silver crescent, in my hand a bow and quiver. The oddity of my habit drew on me more questions than I could answer with propriety; and the witlings being far more numerous than the wits, by a thousand impertinencies gave me fresh cause to repent of my complaisance. I am not fond of this diversion; and if ever I go to another, it must be in

a domino. I have said that Mr. Temple shewed us his cloven foot; he was attended by Sir Robert Fenton as a harlequin; Mr. Bruce, a Turkish bashaw; my brother, Mercury, as their harbinger, in a coat of flame colour, a white mantle trimmed with gold, his beaver white, wings at his head and feet, and a rod of silver in his hand; which rod he has laid so successfully on my eyes, that I am forced to obey its summons.

Friday morning.

The prince of the air, just going to take his flight, and soon to alight in paradise, is impatiently waiting for my letter. What a present do I now send you! a brother, whose absence you have so often regretted,
and

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and (if Mr. Temple's haste to be with
you does not greatly deceive me) an
addition to a long train of admirers :
among whom you have none more
sincerely so, than your obliged

LUCY WALTON.

Miss

Miss HAMILTON *to* Lady LUCY
WALTON.

THANKS to my dear Lady Lucy! the joy she gave is hardly yet subsided.—As I was yesterday sitting at my toilet, Sally came running to me half out of breath, saying, the cleverest gentleman—just alighted from a chariot—with six foaming horses—was asking Madam Wentworth all about me.—This girl is daughter to a poor man in the neighbourhood, who has eight other children; which was the reason of my taking her for my servant. Her rusticity I overlook on account of her honesty and readiness to oblige: and was not much alarmed

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alarmed at her abrupt manner ; till my aunt entering, cried out, with apparent pleasure—bless me ! Juliet, I can tell you news—your brother, my dear, is in England—how, madam ! in England ! — Starting from my chair with agility, down fell the table, the dressing boxes rolling about the floor : Can it be ? but say, my dear aunt, is not my brother below ? I am sure he is.— You are right ;—but don't hurry yourself : be seated till you are more composed.—For your giddy friend was hastening down, having forgot that her cap was off, and her hair unpinned. My aunt said, she had been chiding him for not letting us know of his arrival ; but did not mention a word of any person's being with him. As soon as my cap was

was

was replaced, down I flew.—The first object my eyes met, was a gentleman with his back towards me : running up to him I was going to throw my arms round his neck ; when he hearing a footstep, turned, and rescued me from the confusion I should have been in, at the manner in which I proposed welcoming Mr. Temple, mistaking him for Sir William. In the full sense of the words, I came off with flying colours ; and being convinced he was a stranger to my intentions, had paid him my compliments with tolerable composure, when my brother joined us.—Our joy was then reciprocal ; for never was there greater affection than subsists between us ; our birth commencing at the same time : indeed, we are thought the
exact

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exact resemblance of each other.—
He talks, and I believe thinks of
nothing but the masquerade. In
vain did the graceful coronet encir-
cle the head of your Indian prin-
cesses; in vain were placed the glow-
ing flowers on that of the fair
shepherdes; the gardener neglects
them all, and becomes a follower of
the virgin huntress, whose shining
crescent had for him charms more
attractive. Shall I give you part of
a conversation I had with him a few
moments since? but why do I ask,
when you are not present to forbid
me? What a happy creature are you,
Juliet, in being honoured with the
friendship of the finest woman in the
kingdom?—I dare say you mean
Lady Lucy Walton; looking at him
with one of my arch smiles, as you
used

used to call them.—To be sure he did.—Well then, my dear brother, you are certainly right; but have you ever seen her? Sly girl, he returned; don't you know that I saw her at the masquerade? to her face I am yet a stranger; when I spoke of her as a fine woman, I meant her shape, air, and manner; but above all, the beauties of her mind: for without them, none of your sex, my sister, can be truly lovely; these are the ornaments which the fair should be studious to attain; by them the finest complexion would be heightened, the eyes sparkle with brighter lustre, while every feature, thus animated, would speak the cause from whence such charms proceeded.—

This observation made me determine

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to be very good ; for what will not a woman undertake to be thought handsome ? but full, as I was, of my own amendment, and the advantages proposed from it, I neglected not to assure him you had a face little inferior to that mind, and that person, for which he so justly admired you.—At this a sigh escaped him, that by its length he seemed to intend should reach your Ladyship : and knowing it would out-travel the post, I sit down to enquire if you have yet received it.—What, in the name of Love, am I to do with him ? for this is the deity that must be invoked in his cause. I'll e'en send him to town, and pray employ him in planting flowers under your window.—But now let me call
you

you to an account.—Granted.—
What then did you mean by saying you had sent Mr. Temple to me as an admirer? had you any grounds for your surmises? if so, my whole vengeance must fall on Charlotte; for 'tis she has stolen him from me; nor does she, I really think, repent her theft.—For my part, I made as sure of an humble servant, as I ever did of a new cap.—What then must be my disappointment, after sitting one whole hour alone with him, plaiting my ruffles, expecting every instant when he would enter on something particular, to see him start from his chair, like one just recovered from a trance, go to the window, and look wishfully into the great road, and then hear him

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ask how far it was to Lady Friendford's? though, poor man! he has been there often: but this love is a sad destroyer of the memory.—Now you must know, that Harriet and Charlotte were gone to spend the day with her Ladyship. Was it not enough to awaken suspicion? if you have led me into the scrape, nothing can screen you from my revenge, but a Christian disposition to return good for evil.—Well, I must tell you how I penetrated farther into this love affair. My cousins came home very early, yet was Mr. Temple all impatience for a long time before.—As the evening drew on, so did his apprehensions: he wished the ladies might not get cold; he saw a storm in every passing cloud; and

and Lady Caroline S——. 29

and I protest would at last have teased me into the vapours, had I not been relieved, and his fears put an end to, by their welcome appearance: when a few hours convinced me of what before I more than half suspected; that is, of your Ladyship's mistake, and Charlotte's conquest.—On our retiring, Harriet and I rallied her; whilst she, as innocent as a lamb, could not for the world suppose any such thing.—Did we imagine that Mr. Temple, who had seen so many fine women, could like such a country girl?—Oh! if that is all, my dear, and you approve him, I'll engage for his preference of you.—I approve him! I am sure I said no such thing.—That is true, you have not said it;

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but then your eyes, your eyes; they are sad tell-tales, as well as his; and 'tis through those windows of the soul, that I have discovered your having no objection to each other.—With my usual good-nature, when I had nothing left to say, I allowed her the same respite I now shall your Ladyship.—We hope nothing will prevent us from paying our personal thanks to the Earl, for the honour he has done us; and you, for that conferred on me, in permitting me to stile myself your Ladyship's most obedient

JULIET HAMILTON.

Lady

Lady LUCY WALTON *to Miss*
HAMILTON.

WE who have indulgent parents,
or such as supply their loss,
like the aunt of my Juliet, ought to
think them the richest gift of Pro-
vidence.—An incident has happened
since my last, that gives more force
to this reflection, than any other I
have ever met with. — Scarcely am
I yet recovered from the hurry of
spirits it occasioned.—Sitting alone
this morning, I was told that a
young lady desired admittance to
me, with great earnestness ; but be-
ing taken suddenly ill, was obliged
to drink a glass of water, before she

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could deliver her request.—I imagined her to be some young woman who had suffered in her fortune, and wanted my mediation with my father. This I the more readily concluded, as his beneficent disposition is so well known, that it would not have been the first instance of the kind within my remembrance.—Well does Mr. Addison observe, that there is something sacred in distress; and not to give an immediate attention to it is to acknowledge we want the only virtue that can distinguish us from that part of the creation which hath not reason for its director. — I bid a servant shew her into a little room, in which I always receive such visitors; for people who are not used

to

and Lady Caroline S——. 33

to splendor, are often so much aw'd by it, as to be prevented from entering into conversation with a necessary freedom.—Reaching it almost as soon as the person whom I had ordered to be conducted to it, what was my astonishment to find there Lady Frances S——, whom but two days since I saw at the masquerade, inspiring all who beheld her, with respect, even to veneration, now unattended; in appearance all terrified, and ready to sink; her feet being scarce able to support their trembling burthen. — Unable to speak, I received her in my arms; her head fell on my shoulder, while her hidden grief found vent in a most violent gush of tears.—I said every thing my great surprize and

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amazement would admit of, to lessen her affliction, without knowing the cause; but was satisfied of her prudence, and that it was not a common one.—Her dignity returning, a dignity accompanied by the sweetest humility, with more composure she desired me to assist a poor distressed creature, whose friends were at too great a distance to protect her.—The first favour, said her Ladyship, I shall petition for, is, that the Earl will receive me into his family for a few days; the next, that he will suffer one of his servants to carry a letter for me to my uncle, who is now in Suffex. I am sensible, continued she, that I ought to hide nothing from you, before I can have any title to your confidence:

and Lady Caroline S——. 35

dence: nor can the world longer be a stranger to what has hitherto been with difficulty concealed. She then proposed recounting to me the chief incidents of her life; requesting I would acquaint the Earl with as many of them as would prevent her from sinking in his opinion. Tell him, madam, tell his Lordship, that I hope I am not the very guilty creature, which my being driven disgracefully from my father's house seemeth to bespeak me.—I intreated her not to give encouragement to a thought that would increase her uneasiness. Then conducting her Ladyship to another apartment, and leaving her writing to Lord Henry, I went to my father and repeated to him all that had

C 6 passed.

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passed. He had, he said, heard it rumoured, that the Duke and Dutches were less fond of her than she deserved: and the character of her mother, which was that of a vain woman, who never disguised the influence she had over her husband, being well known to him, he was not at a loss to divine the cause of this application. — But go, Lucy, said he, tell her she shall command my most tender protection: and then ordered his steward to be the bearer of her Ladyship's letter to Lord Henry. This message brightened into serenity the dejected air that before overspread her countenance: and having recovered her disordered spirits, she began her narrative, which my giving you in her own words will

will not only entertain myself, but raise in your breast those delightful sensations, ever sure to flow from a humane and gentle disposition.—How much am I concerned! said her Ladyship, that I cannot acquaint you with my grief, without making you a sharer in it: for compassionate minds are ever ready to sympathize with the unfortunate; and when thus interested, they certainly, for a time, experience real pain, by adopting another's woe. / But still, my dear Lady Lucy, you must pity me, indeed you must, or I shall be more unhappy.—Having answered her with that affection, which my heart felt for this dear injured creature, (injured I knew she was, being too well acquainted with her worth

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worth to suppose the contrary) she thus proceeded. My grandfather had three sons, of whom my father was the second. He married the Hon. Miss M——, consulting neither of his parents in this union; who were so very averse to it, that his Grace was inflexible, and would listen to no terms of reconciliation, notwithstanding his Dutches (of whom he was doatingly fond) endeavoured to bring about that event, though far from approving her son's choice. It was not a deficiency in title or fortune that prejudiced them in her disfavour, her personal perfections being great; but the world censured her for a love of admiration, and haughtiness of carriage to her superiors.—Indeed, I have been told

told the Dutcheſs received ſome proofs of it, which ſo irritated the Duke, that he withdrew from my father a large income, reducing him in his circumſtances, from affluence to neceſſity. Lord Henry (through that principle which has been the guide of all his actions) denied himſelf every expenſive pleaſure, that he might be able to aſſiſt him; while his elder brother, of a far leſs forgiving diſpoſition, refuſed to ſee him; declaring publickly, that my mother's want of condeſcenſion was the reaſon. This, and ſome other reflections that dropped from him, coming again to her ear, the wound was ſo inflamed, as to make it impoſſible for the hand of time, or balm of gentleneſs, to heal it.

When

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When my father's fortune was at the lowest ebb, he became heir apparent to the Dukedom, by the death of the Marquis, which was a great disappointment to my grandfather, who, being of an infirm constitution, and having lost his Dutches but a twelvemonth, was by this fresh stroke soon hurried to the end of his own days. He left my father possessed of the title and what else he could not withhold from him, which was scarcely the fourth part of his fortune.—The first five years of my life, which commenced at the time his Grace died, I was given up too much to the care of servants, who finding my mother's indifference for me, neglected the trust reposed in them. She was fond of public places,

and Lady Caroline S——. 41

places, because always distinguished for her beautiful appearance.—Being thus careffed abroad, and indulged by my father at home, she thought not of enquiring into the management of her child: and to the best of uncles am I indebted for the least advantage of education. He returning from the south of France, where he had been for the recovery of his health, prevailed on my mother to place me at Chelsea school, himself conducting me to it. He made it his request to Mrs. H——, that she would be particular in her attention to me; and enforced it by a genteel liberality.—Nor did she promise him more than she strictly fulfilled. About this time died my sister Caroline, two years younger

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younger than myself. — Had she lived—but for her sake I ought not, will not wish it.—Here her Ladyship paid me an obliging compliment on our intimacy; expressing the uneasiness she felt at my leaving the school before her.—I did not return to my father's 'till I was fifteen, continued she, when Lord Henry fondly received me, and soon after gave me a set of jewels, which cost him three thousand pounds. — His tenderness partly compensated for the entire loss of my mother's: but why do I say I lost it? that being a blessing I never could remember. My father, influenced by her example, seemed to have contracted a settled indifference for me; and I was treated by both more as an incumbrance

cumbrance on the family, than their daughter. For three years was I never permitted to go into company; and except my uncle, who would sit whole days with me, I seldom saw the face of any other but my own servant. — His Lordship remonstrated to my mother on my too strict confinement; and at length got her to promise she would introduce me to some of her acquaintance. I was a stranger to his kind solicitude to obtain this point, till her woman came to me the next day, saying, her Grace had employed mine, and sent her to assist in dressing me; intending I should visit with her that afternoon. A favour so unexpected greatly surprised me; and would have made me

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me quite happy, had not my mother's austerity taken off the pleasure I should otherwise have had in attending her. She sent orders for me to put on a crimson sattin negligee, though not suitable to the weather ; but this being a matter of indifference to me, Mrs. Dalton equipped me as she thought proper. About six I was summoned to the drawing-room, and found there my father, Lord Henry, and my mother : his Lordship, with an air of affection not visible on any other countenance, called me dear good girl ; see brother, see sister, leading me to them, how your condescension has made her eyes sparkle with gratitude. Her Grace looked at me in a manner that made me tremble. In my agitation

tation I dropped down on one knee, took her hand and put it to my lips; being so much affected by her unkind silence, that I felt the tears falling in a shower on my face.— What does the girl mean? said my mother; this indulgence spoils her.— Indeed, brother, you persuade me to take a wrong method.— Go, madam, walk back to your apartment; I shall not carry you abroad to expose me. I replied not, but went sobbing from the room; my father left it with emotion; my uncle, in a whisper, begged me to be composed; and the coach drove away without any message sent me.—

I shall now finish this letter, but will begin another to send with it,
being

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being assured you are as full of curiosity, as was your affectionate

LUCY WALTON.

Lady

Lady LUCY WALTON, in continuation.

IT is impossible to describe, pursued Lady Frances, the agony of passion in which I found my mother, on being ordered to attend her the next morning. — At first it would not give her leave to tell me in what I had offended ; at length, with severity, she said I had exposed her to my father and uncle, who accused her of being the cause of my ready tears : but they shall both know, continued she, notwithstanding their presumption in attempting it, that my authority is not to be interfered with. Go then, you audacious

dacious girl, frowning on me ; nor thus let your tears flow where they will be disregarded. I would, with the utmost submission, have cleared my innocence ; but observing that I did not immediately quit her presence, she asked with impetuosity, whether her commands were to be disputed by all who owed her their obedience : and putting me from the door, pushed it after me.—It was a small alleviation to my concern, on this treatment, to find that my father had spoke of me with some regard ; though too certain that the desired effect would not accrue from it, as he never acted contrary to my mother's inclinations ; from which I had now nothing to expect. When I thought of her unkindness, it
was

was a dagger to my heart, that deeply wounded it; and must have been the destroyer of my peace, had not my affairs taken a turn, sudden as agreeable.—One morning, while I was employing myself with my pen, Lord Henry entered the room.—In his looks sat marks of innate satisfaction, that brightened his whole aspect. Seating himself by me, he enquired what had been the subject of my contemplations: my serious air, he said, bespoke me in a humour to indulge them. I only sighed. Why that sigh, my dear? why such tokens of despondence? Indeed, my dear uncle, I have not desponded: and to convince you of it, see the power I invoke, giving

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him

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him this scroll, which I had just
been writing.—

I.

COME, Hope, thou kind persua-
sive maid,
Apply thy gentle art;
Oh, hither haste, with thy soft aid,
To heal my recent smart.

II.

A smart, which nothing can allay,
Should'st thou disdain to prove
Thy soothing pow'r; which all obey,
And by its dictates move.

III.

With grief, and all her train of cares,
With dire misfortune press'd;
Thee I invoke, to quell my fears,
And smooth my ruffled breast.

IV.

IV.

To thy first dawn with joy I yield,
Thy swift advances meet ;
Each anxious thought my mind has
fill'd,
I'll lay beneath thy feet.

V.

Pleas'd with my adoration paid,
She comes, sent from above ;
In all her native charms array'd,
And smiles of chearing love.

VI.

Lo! on my sight she sheds her beams,
And lights my darken'd soul ;
A chearful prospect gaily gleams,
And beauty fills the whole.

VII.

Misfortune's train was chac'd away ;
 They fled at sight of Hope,
 My soul seemed breaking into day,
 As thus the power spoke.—

VIII.

“ O, cease thy plaints, nor breathe a care ;
 “ Content shall dwell with thee ;
 “ 'Tis *she* must banish ev'ry fear,
 “ Who comes inspir'd by me.”

IX.

I bow, and own in grateful sense,
 The happy change I find,
 Since warm'd by her sweet influence,
 She deigns to rule my mind.

My

My uncle was moved by these lines, even to a womanish softness; many a melting witness fell as he perused them: then taking me in his arms, yes, my Fanny, content shall ever be the companion of your soul, if it be in the power of my tenderness and fortune to procure it for you. These expressions, and the paternal caresses with which they were accompanied, awakened in my memory what I wished not to recollect: and it was with unspeakable agitation that those words escaped me; O my dear, dear uncle! why will not my own father, why will not my own mother love me as you do! —They do, they must love you, he replied; time, which reveals all things, will certainly one day prove

it. I have prevailed on them to consent, that I shall take my dear girl with me into Suffex; of my house there, from this time think yourself intire mistress, as well as of your own actions; and to propose this to you did I come to your apartment.—Though all I could say was too faint to speak the sense I had of his goodness, he assured me it was more than I owed him; being amply paid by my ready acquiescence with his proposal.—

In a few days all was in order for my departure; about an hour before it, my mother sent for, and received me with more good humour than I could expect; called me her dear, and said, if I continued to oblige Lord Henry, I should remain

remain at Audley-Castle as long as it was agreeable to him. I begged I might be permitted to see my father ; but this her Grace thought proper to refuse me ; slightly saying, he was from home ; though that instant he passed by the window into the gardens. Her Grace was confused, but took no notice she had observed him ; and to prevent me from renewing my request, proposed engaging him to visit my uncle, whilst I was with him. I perceived she was averse to my seeing him, and that it would be in vain, was I to urge my suit farther ; so I dropped it, contenting myself with thanking my mother for her promised favour ; and so taking my leave of her, as did Lord Henry, we pro-

ceeded on our journey.—Being arrived, and driving up the avenue, an elderly lady came down a walk leading from the castle, who stopped as soon as she saw us. I asked my uncle if he knew her, and whether she belonged to that neighbourhood: he smiled, but without answering drew in the string, being very near her. She approached towards us, and the manner in which she welcomed my uncle, convinced me they were no strangers to each other. My surprize increased, when, on stepping from the coach, he took my hand and led me to her.—This, madam, said he, is the niece you have so often heard me mention; I shall now be more happy, as she must be perfectly so, in your friendship

ship and affection.—To you, my dear Fanny, I present Mrs. Worthley, as a lady I highly esteem, who does me the honour to meet you here. Look on her as a mother; she has promised to receive you in that light.—Having saluted me with an air free from restraint, and perfectly engaging, she replied, now my Lord, you give me a pleasing opportunity of paying some of those immense debts of tenderness, which I have been so long contracting at your Lordship's expence. — There was a fixed melancholy imprinted on her face, which I imagined proceeded from the heart; but her conversation was chearful, easy, and entertaining. — So many beauties discovered themselves in it, that in a

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few hours I could account for my uncle's admiration of her; though not by what means he became acquainted with her worth. His behaviour to her the whole time I remained at Audley-Castle, was respectful and affectionate; and he consulted her on all his affairs, whether trivial, or of moment. When she could not be excused from giving her opinion, he was always sure to find it adapted to his own inclinations. — The morning after we came down, sitting alone with her in the library, and looking over the collection of books, I opened a volume of Mr. Pope's works; on the outer leaf of which was wrote, in a fine Italian hand, Sophia Worthley. This, madam, I suppose

pose is your name? putting the book into her hand. She fixed her eyes on it, for some minutes, as if quite lost in thought, and after a short pause, your Ladyship is right, said she; it is; and is also that of a daughter I was once possessed of. I apologized for having given birth to reflections, which I too late saw had caused her pain.—The most pleasing that can be, replied she, unable to check a rising sigh: they bring to my memory a child, which, whilst I exist, will be its chief delight. My fondness for her can never lessen; though she has long since been insensible to its effects. She then told me I should know the vast obligations she was under to Lord Henry. But this account has

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such connection with what I shall farther relate of my own affairs, that it will be quite necessary for you to see the manuscript I have now with me, wrote in her own words : for I found so many fine sentiments interspersed in it, which could not fail of being both instructive and amusing, that fearing I might not be able to retain them all, as soon as she had concluded, I committed the story to writing.

So now, my dear Miss Hamilton, and my other charming companions, shall I soon send Mrs. Worthley's narrative : after which you shall have the continuation of Lady Frances's.—My brother set out for Heartly-Abbey last Friday ; he proposes staying but a few days.—Word is
just

and Lady Caroline S——. 61

just brought me that her Ladyship
is in her dressing-room. That I may
bid her good-morrow, I hasten to
subscribe myself,

Yours affectionately,

LUCY WALTON.

Miss

Miss HAMILTON to *Lady* LUCY
WALTON.

IT is impossible to tell, my dear Lady Lucy, how much we all commiserate the unmerited treatment Lady Frances has experienced from her worthless (it pains me to call her) mother. Can nature produce another such blot, in all its works, as a parent looking with envy on her own daughter! for this, I am persuaded, is the spring, by which her actions have been moved. —What ravages will not passion make! like the waves of the sea, when violently agitated, it wrecks every thing that sails on its bosom; and carries away all that opposes its passage.

passage. How frightfully does it look, boiling and red with anger! how beautiful when subsided! In the glassy mirror is reflected the waving trees, high hills, and gilded palaces, that surround its borders.—Who that sees those charming objects, could imagine that one gust of wind will in a moment arise, and overset the gay vessel, whose silken streamers in proud triumph sweep the water?—Methinks I now see Lady Frances standing before her enraged mother; whose beauty is changed into deformity, by envy, the worst of all passions, whilst the innocent object of her rage stands trembling at it. As to the Duke, I have no patience with him: his blind obedience (folly I was going to
term

term it) is the only motive he can have for a cruelty scarcely to be paralleled.—What a mortifying circumstance, that I am obliged to leave your Ladyship for a few hours, to assist my aunt in entertaining Miss Shaw, Miss Hudson, Miss Sable, Mr. Freeman, and Mr. Bloomer; who, without a message, are dropped in upon us. I dislike the whole clan, except Mr. Freeman.—Coming, dear madam; one word more, and I attend you. My aunt is gone to them; I must follow.—

Just escaped, with no other inconveniency than a slight head-ach; but cannot put the tower of Babel from my thoughts, having fancied myself at the building of it three hours.

and Lady Caroline S——. 65

hours. The confusion of voices still rings in my ears. It was so great, that I was often compelled to impose silence on your talkative Juliet, in complaisance to the company, who seemed determined to be heard. My cousins, Mr. Temple, and my brother, were gone out on a walk; so that the whole inundation of news and nonsense fell upon me. Had Swift been present, I could have sworn he made these lines at our expence.

Now voices over voices rise,
Whilst each to be the loudest vies.
They contradict, affirm, dispute,
No single tongue one moment mute.
All mad to speak, and none to hearken,
They set the very lap-dog barking.

Your

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Your Ladyship must know, that I am a very spiteful creature ; and further, that such a vein is always ready to shew itself. To make this truth the plainer, I am resolved to give you a little of our afternoon's conversation, that you may suffer from a repetition of it, as I have done from hearing it — Suppose me then, on being told I was to appear before so great a beau as Mr. Bloomer ; suppose me, I say, standing at a large pier-glass, scanning over my dress from top to toe ; because I knew, if any thing, this would engage his attention. Being now tolerable in my own eyes, though I fear not in his ; for very seldom did he glance them by me, except to fix them on a glass, full as communicative

municative as that I had just left, which exhibited his whole fine, very fine figure. — But stay; let me go on in order. Will. opens the drawing-room door, and I enter with one of my lowest semicircular court'fies. Proper compliments returned, surprizing comments are made on the roads and weather: after which, we have the particular circumstances of the misfortune poor Miss Sable had like to have met with, of spraining her ankle in stepping from her chariot, had not the assisting arm of Mr. Bloomer prevented it.—Now, wonderful to tell! silence had near half a moment ensued, when all the ladies, in one voice, questioned me if I had heard the vast news?—None
that

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that I remembered, since I had lost the pleasure of seeing them.—O-lud! Miss Hamilton, have you not heard of a very strange wedding?—Again I answered in the negative.—Well then, what think you of Mr. Loyd's being caught at last? absolutely so, and by an old woman too: the only thing that can be said for him, is her fortune.—Indeed, madam, hastily replies Miss Sable, (trying in vain at a look of indifference) I see no reason why she should be ridiculed for her age, if her person was but tolerable.—Lord, Miss Sable! continues the other, you are talking of impossibilities; to suppose a woman can be tolerable, who is turned of forty.—Though the red on Miss Sable's cheeks was not a little

little heightened, she declared with the same degree of composure, (thanking her God) that though she was not come to an age for such insinuations to affect her ; yet she had seen many people at forty, more admired than those that were younger ;—directing this sarcasm to her adversary, by a significant nod, and a whisper to Miss Shaw, who sat next her. — The company dividing into parties, I began to fear a pitched battle ; so to avoid the destruction of caps, I made an unsuccessful attempt to give the conversation a different turn. I say unsuccessful ; for Mr. Bloomer, who had till then sat in silent admiration of his own sweet person, now started from his chair, and prevented my design ; by
renewing

renewing it with all the spirit of a coxcomb.—He placed himself fronting the ladies, his back to the fire, exalted on his tip-toes; one hand in his waistcoat pocket, the other displayed with exquisite judgment to assist his oratory, and shew to the best advantage a fine brilliant that sparkled on his little finger. Had Cicero been going to harangue us, I much question whether he would have commanded half the attention or applause which Mr. Bloomer gained, by his extraordinary attitude, and more extraordinary address.—By gad! I am sorry, very sorry my friend Tom has exposed himself, by his egregious folly: I thought him a man of better taste! So many fine young ladies, (bow-
ing

ing to those present)—why the creature he has married looks as if taken from the old fellow's ark, that I heard parson what d'ye call him speak of.—Then venturing to laugh, or rather smiler, without discomposing those features he had been so long settling in the glass, he pronounced her nose to project two inches at the top; and was proceeding with the description of her face, when Miss Hudson interrupted him, with—and I have been told, Sir, (turning her eyes first on Miss Sable, then on the beau) that some of her teeth have given her the slip, and their places are supplied with artificial ones.—Well, poor woman! replies Miss Shaw, I think she has the worst of the bargain; I believe no one will

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envy her happiness; his character prevents that.—I wonder what she could think of herself! adds Miss Sable; I would not have married such a wretch for the world. Dear Miss Hamilton, what a lucky escape we have all had. — I said, I never saw room for thinking I had made an escape, till I had been in danger; which I never was from Mr. Loyd: that, as to his character, I imagined it to be extremely good, from his intimacy with the ladies.—All those who were present, declared they should drop his acquaintance, now they knew what sort of a man he was. — When Mr. Freeman, with his usual good-nature, for which you have so often admired him, took up the cause of his friend, saying, he
had

had known him more than ten years, in which time he had not diminished his esteem for him, by the least action unworthy the gentleman, and man of honour. That the step he had now taken was a prudent one; and without doubt he had found perfections in the mind of his wife, sufficient to compensate for those deficiencies in her person, which Mr. Bloomer's penetration had discovered. — To my great satisfaction he went on thus, uninterrupted: perhaps I may take an improper liberty in what I shall further say; but my regard for the ladies, and the freedom with which I always speak my sentiments, must excuse it. — 'Tis not an observation of my own, but a general one, that

your sex ought to be very cautious in condemning the characters of ours; because it is not consistent with their delicacy to enquire into them, unless they propose particular connexions. In such cases, every woman has a right to do it, in order to prevent her from being in the power of a man, who may, by a specious appearance, lead her into misery, if not timely detected: but for a common acquaintance, let his character be as black as it is possible for vice to make it, yet he will, for his own sake, when in company with women of virtue and modesty, behave so as to shock neither. Should he ever deviate from this rule, more necessary to society than any other, I would advise her not
to

to give him a second opportunity, by admitting him again to her conversation. A light or indelicate expression, being a real insult, ought to be treated as such; but this should be the method of shewing her resentment; for were she to attempt exposing him, whether with or without reason, she may be assured he will stick at nothing till he has completed his revenge, if truth or invention can furnish him with the means.—I am not speaking with regard to Mr. Loyd, continued he, knowing him to be the reverse of the person described; but with an intention for you to see what revengeful creatures we are, when provoked.—This was the first satirical thing I ever heard from the

E 2 lips

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lips of Mr. Freeman ; but I could see he was displeased with the aspersions cast on his friend's character ; and that his resentment of them had called from him these observations, which though rather severe, because so soon delivered after the ladies had made their remarks, I must yet own were extreamly just. — This, however, put an entire end to all reflections on the new-married couple : but scandal, like the Hydra's head, was no sooner lopped off in one place, than it sprouted up in another, with greater vigour ; of which, should not this be a sufficient specimen, let me know, and you shall have the remainder in my next.

My

and Lady Caroline S——. 77

My brother and Mr. Temple intend setting out for town to-morrow, and will wait on your Ladyship with this letter. Mr. Temple's proposals are accepted; I believe it will not be long before Charlotte gives him her hand. Was there ever such a sly girl? She has looked over my shoulder, and read the last sentence; but permits me to send it, with this addition, that whether married, or single, your Ladyship is entitled to a large share of her heart. As for mine, I shall not think of disposing of the least part of it, till I am certain it will meet with no rougher usage than you have shewn it. All my friends have helped to spoil it for such trials.—
Two things I will aver; the first,

E 3

that

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that it is a faithful one, the next,
that it is at the command of my
dear Lady Lucy, as long as it beats
in the breast of her affectionate,
grateful, and obliged

JULIET HAMILTON.

P. S. We all wait with impatience
for Mrs. Worthley's manuscript,
and a further account of Lady
Frances.

Some

Some Particulars in the Life of Mrs.

*WORTHLEY, related by herself
to Lady FRANCES S——.*

YOUR Ladyship will not blame me, if in speaking of those persons, whose memories are dear to me, I give them their just tribute of praise.—My father, to the advantages of high birth, had joined great learning; his affability made him easy of access, while the innocence of his manners, enforced by those nervous arguments with which he sometimes used to attack the vices, not the persons of men, gained him universal esteem. My mother was the woman that such a

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man could like ; good and amiable. She died whilst I was in a state of infancy ; after which my father, though in possession of affluence, contented himself with retirement, where, free from care, his days passed on serenely peaceful. My education I received under his eye ; his chief pleasure and study being to assist in it.—He had many favourite observations, which he would often repeat to me ; but this was one he took the most pains to inculcate into my mind ; that it was in the power of every man to lessen or increase his own misery ; for if of a contented disposition, though surrounded by misfortunes, he would receive them as easy lessons in the school of virtue.—But that the desires

fires of the restless uneasy mind know no bounds, and when his imaginary troubles assume the form of real ones, he yields himself a slave to the usurpers, and consents to his own torment. — 'Tis the former part of this observation, that has borne me up, amidst troubles that long struggled to overwhelm and sink me. — Going to town with a Lady of distinction, distantly related to us, and visiting at Lord E——'s, I there met Colonel Worthley. He liking me, made advantageous proposals to my father; who, knowing I was not averse to them, and that his family and fortune were both superior to mine, readily consented. After our marriage, we thought on no other

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home than my father's ; from him I never would be separated, but by that power which at last divided us. — Many years flew on ; every one saw me happier than the other. Not a wish of mine but was complied with by a husband, whose least action flowed from an affection scarcely to be equalled ; my Sophy (which was the first child I brought him) and the parent from whom he received me, being the only persons who shared it with me. — How have I rejoiced to see the little prattling innocent placed on the knee of her doating grandfather, her sweet eyes expressing youthful duty, lifted up to his reverend countenance in strict attention : then to hear her, after running to her father
and

and Lady Caroline S——. 83

and me, lisp over the precepts she had caught from him. But, alas! this tranquility was interrupted in the sixth year of her life, by the death of her instructor. These lines of Mr. Dryden's are applicable to him ;—

Of no distemper, of no blast he died ;
But fell like Autumn fruit.—

—Surely he spoke prophetically, when, taking the darling of his age into his arms, some hours before his end ; Thou, child, said he, art born to be the comfort of thy mother, and an honour to thy father's house. May that God, with whom thy infant soul is not unacquainted, strengthen the flower that opens with so fair an aspect, and not crop

E 6 thy

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thy tender stalk, till loaded down by its own burthen ; but, O Lord, thy will be done ; looking on her with agitation, whilst with her frock she wiped away the tears that fell on his furrowed cheeks.—This loss was the forerunner of a long train of misfortunes, which now trod fast on the heels of one another. Sophia was my only surviving child, though I brought several into the world ; who were too young when taken from me to give me any more pain, than what a mother must feel on such an occasion. She was ten years old when a war broke out with Spain. Soon after my husband was called upon by his country, to join a large body of troops, and proceed against some of the Spanish settlements.

ments. The thoughts of leaving me, in the situation I then was, gave his manly heart a shock he vainly endeavoured to hide.—Seeing it, I exerted all the resolution I was mistress of to remove it, assuming a countenance very different from what I then felt. — That I might enjoy his presence, till compelled by necessity to quit it, I hired a small lodging, and taking my child and only two servants, went with him to London ; in which place he proposed waiting till the embarkation. He was received with particular marks of favour, when introduced to his Majesty, on being appointed second in command. All was in too much forwardness for my peace ; and the day for his departure too soon

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soon arrived. It was then that the mask was thrown off, and discovered the real disorder of our souls: what that was, you can better imagine than I describe: I can only say, my so much boasted fortitude forsook me; not being able to stand so severe a trial.— I received a letter from him as soon as he arrived at his place of destination, filled with the delightful hopes of a speedy return; as the fortifications were not capable of making a long resistance against the English arms. The next after it was directed in a hand I had never seen; not guessing at the contents, I opened it, without the least concern; but on reading these words, “ I am sorry to acquaint you with
“ the death of the brave Colonel
“ Worthley”,

“Worthley”, I sunk senseless to the ground. Recovering, I found myself thrown on my bed, a lady standing by me, with a smelling bottle in one hand, in the other my daughter. The sight of her made me wish to preserve that life, which was become less valuable, by being deprived of its richest comfort. The greatness of her joy shewed what her sorrow had been. From my arms she ran into the person’s by whose means I had been restored. O, madam, (she cried, locking the child in them, and kissing her with affection like my own) what a child is this! never did I see such sensibility. She then begged I would tell her in what she could assist me. I dismissed Sophy, with assurances
that

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that I was quite well, bidding her go to the maid, and get herself dressed, for I was unwilling to disclose before her the cause of my fainting; intending to break it to her by degrees. I then gave the letter which conveyed to me the dreadful news, into the stranger's hand, saying, she would see by it, no remedy could reach my wound. All this while I knew not to whom I had the honour of speaking. It was wrote by an officer in the same regiment, with too little caution for such a discovery. But there are some in the world, who are so eager to be the messengers of news, whether it be welcome or unwelcome to those whom it concerns, that their fear lest any other person should be more expeditious

peditious than themselves, leaves them not time to reflect on the consequences their abrupt relations may be attended with; and if painful, the means of softening the woe they give, is generally omitted through their haste in revealing it. Indeed this gentleman added, that my husband had left a character behind him, which any man would gladly give up the enjoyment of a few years to attain. But what comfort would this afford me, after having been told, and that so precipitately, how dearly he had made the purchase. She used every method of condolence, not by dissuading me from yielding to my grief, but by kindly bearing a part in it; knowing that time alone could lessen a sorrow so
justly

justly founded. By the finest arguments, without stopping its course, she calmed it. This angel, for such her every action proclaimed her, was the late Dutches, your Ladyship's grandmother, whom I looked on as sent by providence to direct me by what means I could best support its decrees. When I became no stranger to her quality, the knowledge of it could add nothing to my veneration, her virtues having engaged it all before I knew what was owing to her high station. Her Grace told me, that as she passed by my door, a servant in the utmost confusion ran into the street, begging, for God's sake, some one would go to the assistance of her mistress, who was fallen down in a fit. Having proper
drops

drops about her to restore my senses, and ordering the chair to stop, she proceeded to my chamber, where the first object that presented itself was my Sophy, trying to lift me from the floor, her infant strength being nearly exhausted; the house resounded with her cries. As soon as she saw me, continued her Grace, she ran to me; Oh! madam, said the sweet child, you are come to save my dear mamma. Are you not come to save her? God Almighty loves my mamma, because she is good; I know he will not let her die. The lovely creature returning to you, hung about your neck, till she saw you restored to life; and then paid me her acknowledgements, in a manner that as much surprized me

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me at her early accomplishments, as I had just been at her sensibility.— Before I could repeat my thanks to her Grace, for the obligations she had conferred on me, I was taken extremely ill ; and in a few hours delivered of a son. The Dutches having staid with me the whole time, on her leaving me desired my permission to take my daughter with her, where she remained till my recovery ; which was perfected contrary to the expectations of all about me. Not a day passed but I was honoured with frequent visits from her Grace ; and at last, beginning to be reconciled to my destiny, I made known to her my intentions of leaving the town, and settling in that house where I had spent the happiest

happiest part of my life. At first she opposed them ; but finding me resolved, was pleased to drop her disapprobation, kindly offering to take her little favourite, as she fondly called my Sophy, under her own care : yet this too she suffered me to decline, on my urging, that in her presence I hoped to recall part of the satisfaction I had lost, in being for ever torn from her happy father. That he was so, all my reflections assured me. — I had been wanting from it near twelve months, when I again saw my paternal habitation, now stripped of its most graceful ornaments. Every room, every walk seemed conscious of their fallen honours, and wore the face of mourning. Often, as I have been holding
in

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in my arms the dear resemblance of my husband, drawn by nature in stronger colours than Raphael himself could have shewn him in, his sister playing by me, gathering flowers to adorn her hair, that fell in shining ringlets on her shoulders; often have I fancied the very birds have changed their plaintive sounds, to notes more plaintive, and warbled out their musical commiseration to those sweet orphans. — Here, for some years, was I agreeably amused in forming the mind of my girl; but knowing myself incapable of so important a task, without great assistance, I called in that of the most moral and polite authors. Having a genius for poetry, I suffered her to indulge it, as she never chose improper

proper subjects. One of her early productions, wrote at the age of fifteen, I have now by me; though her attempt in following this speculation, which is a vision of the seasons, did not come up to the spirit of the author, yet as they were wrote by her, they are to me valuable.—I had no desire of returning to London till my son was seven, and my girl seventeen: but then thought it necessary to give him an education he might not be ashamed of, when capable of distinguishing the advantages of a good one.—This motive made me resolve to quit my beloved retirement, where I had passed seven years in an uninterrupted calm; determining to revisit it, as soon as I had placed Charles at
Westminster

Westminster school. When my plan was thus settled, and a day fixed for our setting out, I wrote the Dutchess word of my intentions, who had indulged me in an epistolary correspondence ; often condescending to honour my Sophy in the same manner. To which instructive favours, I attributed some daily improvements, which the partial eye of a fond mother made me fancy I saw in her. — My surprize could be equalled by nothing but my gratitude, when on alighting at an inn, twenty miles from town, I saw her Grace's equipage standing in the court, and was informed by her servants, that their Lady waited there, in expectation of meeting me. Impatient to pay those acknowledgments

ments my heart was full of, I begged her Grace might be acquainted with my arrival ; but could not restrain my feet from following the servant so close, that I found myself in her arms, before his message could be delivered. She embraced my daughter with the same affection ; telling us we were now both her prisoners, and must go wherever she thought proper to convey us ; giving me to understand the full meaning of her words : which was, that we should reside with her during our stay in town. — When I told her I had already lodgings near the Duke's house, she replied, she was not a stranger to my unkindness, but had taken the liberty of discharging them, and thus necessi-

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tated me to oblige her. I need not tell you, that so much condescension was not to be withstood ; so after a short refreshment, we proceeded on our journey, and were received by my Lord Duke with respectful kindness. One month passed away, almost imperceptibly. I was beginning to think of my return to solitude, her Grace having insisted on my leaving Sophy with her, at least for that winter ; when one day, as we were sitting in her dressing-room, she having just left it to fetch something from her cabinet, Lord Henry (who was but that moment come in from a visit he had been making to a family distant from London) entered it. Not seeing his mother there, he made a genteel

teel apology for what he called an intrusion ; and would have retired, but we prevented him. I had never seen a figure so capable of inspiring the most tender sentiments as was his at that time ; though grief and disappointment have since greatly altered it ; rendering at the same time that deficiency less observable, by giving additional beauties to a mind, which I then thought incapable of receiving any.—Her Grace soon joined us, having embraced her son, and gently chid him for his long absence, said, she would now make him a very valuable present, so valuable, that he would much regret he had not received it sooner. But you, my dear, taking my daughter's hand, must first per-

mit me to fulfil this promise. She blushed, and was silent. My Lord respectfully approached them; whilst I, struck with her look, her manner, so noble, so enforcing, could only express what I felt, by the strict attention I observed. Providence has at last, continued she, given me a daughter; you a sister: I shall say nothing of her deserts, only be grateful for this gift, as I have been; or as you find it merits. 'Tis impossible to say which shewed the greatest emotion or eagerness to thank the Dutchess. Indeed, I have since thought, my Lord seemed to feel the full force of a real obligation. A few days after, I received a letter from the country, by which I found my presence necessary, to expedite

pedite some affairs of moment. On parting with my children, and their kind protectress, an unusual melancholy seized me; but this I imagined was owing to the difficulty I had, in tearing myself from the society of persons so dear to me. Ten months passed without any incidents happening worth your attention, except that I constantly received excuses from her Grace for detaining my girl, and a promise of paying me a visit with her early in the summer. One evening, as I was walking in a little wood near my house, I saw a chariot and fix driving swiftly towards it: as soon as it stopped, a young gentleman, whom I did not immediately recollect, stepped from it; but what

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was my astonishment, after speaking to one of my servants, to see Lord Henry hastening to meet me. To those enquiries my gratitude suggested, his answers were short and unconnected ; but when I mentioned my children, his embarrassment increased : he endeavoured to hide it, giving me a letter, which a secret impulse made me open with impatience ; first asking his excuse for doing it. These, madam, as near as I can recollect, were the contents.

“ *My dear Mrs. Worthley,*

“ Our good and amiable daughter has for some days past been
“ indisposed in an inflammatory disorder on her lungs ; but don’t,
“ my

“ my dear partner in this inestimable
“ treasure, imagine the worst ;
“ for the physicians I have called
“ in, who are men of great skill,
“ assure me, there is no danger.
“ Lord Henry, knowing the tenderness
“ I have for my charming
“ girl, has proposed attending you
“ to town : the seeing you will be
“ to her the most effectual restorative,
“ and give sincere satisfaction
“ to, madam, your affectionate and
“ obliged humble servant.

“ *P. S.* Miss Worthley knows of
“ your coming to town, but not
“ the occasion.” —

On turning to your uncle, I observed he hastily withdrew a hand-

kerchief from his eyes. What a noble tenderness is this, my Lord, that can so affect you for the distresses of others ; but tell me, my Lord, continued I, has her Grace really let me know the worst of my child's disorder?—Indeed, madam, he replied, I flatter myself, there is no danger apprehended, the slightest appearances of which would, I must own, greatly alarm me. O Mrs. Worthley ! you know not the interest I have in the life of that excellent creature. Can you pardon me, madam, for hiding the passion in which I glory so long from you ? —My surprize prevented me from interrupting him, and he went on. Call it not want of confidence, but a diffidence whether I might ever
have

have it in my power to make her mine. Even to herself I did not disclose my sentiments, till I had prevailed on my mother to give them her sanction, with a promise of endeavouring to add to it that of my father's, who has the highest esteem for Miss Worthley, and never denies any thing to the felicity of his children. Confounded by a declaration so unexpected, I scarce knew what answer to return. When I would have thanked him for the honour he intended us, he prevented me, by saying, Mention not that, madam ; the honour is mine ; who never saw those charms generally imagined to consist in titles and splendor, till Miss Worthley gave me hopes I might one day ally them

to her virtues. — He further added, that the reason her Grace had given Sophy for requesting my presence at this time, was, that she might communicate to me his Lordship's choice, and have my approbation of it confirmed. — How much the manner of conferring enhances an obligation, to a mind not ungenerous! Mine was oppressed; but with sensations the most agreeable. We sat out early the next morning, and found several relays of horses properly disposed on the road, by which means we came to town the day following. The Dutchess met us at our alighting from the chariot, expressed her satisfaction at seeing me, and said she hoped her dear girl was something better since she wrote to me.

me. His Lordship shewed vast pleasure at this account, eagerly enquiring if he might not be allowed to attend her. Her Grace replied, that waiting my arrival at a window fronting the street, she was just dropped asleep in her chair. I begged to be permitted to go to her, on which his Lordship left us; but as he went out at one door, she that moment came in at the other. Not having seen her so long, the alteration in her person was more visible to me; and struck me with a sorrow I had great difficulty to prevent from appearing. A paleness, like that of death, overspread her cheeks, once animated with the blush of health; her eyes seemed starting, and full of languor; and her voice was so lost,

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as to be scarcely distinguishable. She asked me, after her joy was a little subsided, if I did not perceive the cold she had taken, by walking too late at Vauxhall ; but I ought not to complain, she said, because it was my own obstinacy that occasioned it. I hoped the change of air, I replied, would soon get the better of her indisposition : that I should request her Grace to part with her for some weeks, finding I could not support a longer separation.—Yes, Mrs. Worthley, returned the Dutchess, we will divide her time between us ; for now shall I claim an equal share in the affections of my daughter : but let me conduct you to my closet ; I have an affair of importance to communicate to you.—

See,

See, my son is coming towards us; we'll leave him to entertain Miss Worthley.—This once more called the blood into its native throne, which tinged her whole face.—On our retiring, her Grace convinced me, in the most endearing manner, that she approved Lord Henry's inclinations; but said, she had not yet mentioned it to the Duke; but she had very little doubt of his compliance, and proposed soon to begin her embassy.—The physicians advised the country air, as most likely to restore my daughter's health, which made me hasten my departure, though afraid her reluctance in quitting the Dutchess would be attended with painful consequences.—After a few days, accompanied
by

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by Lord Henry, we took our leave; but his Lordship was so impatient to join his to her Grace's interest, that having conducted us down, his stay was short; but he fixed an early day for renewing his visit, and for bringing with him the sanction of the Duke, who, he was assured, would not withhold it from him.—The time elapsed, her indisposition increasing; and while I waited in anxious expectation of an event, on which not only his happiness, but perhaps the life of my child depended, instead of himself, arrived one of his Lordship's servants. There was something in his look, that struck me with terror; which was heightened, when, upon my asking for the Duke's family, the poor fellow gave me

me no answer to my question ; but holding out a letter, turned aside his head, wiped his eyes, and sobbing aloud, went from me. — A shivering coldness rushed thro' my veins ; ten thousand ideas crowded at once upon me ; but these lines suspended every faculty of my soul.——

“ How shall I tell my good, my
“ kind Mrs. Worthley, the dread-
“ ful, dreadful loss I have sustained,
“ that she, that my dear Sophy has
“ sustained ? Oh madam ! my
“ friend—my indulgent mother is
“ no more ! an apoplectic fit has
“ carried her off. Miss Worthley’s
“ health is already in so precarious
“ a state, that she must not yet
“ know

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“ know this addition to my misfor-
“ tunes. Should she too be snatch-
“ ed from me !—Prevent it Hea-
“ ven ! Indeed I cannot bear the
“ thought.—Tell me she is better
“ —tell me she will soon recover ;
“ —then shall a gleam of hope
“ again revisit the distracted soul of
“ your and her most affectionate,
“ and most unhappy,

“ Henry S——.”

Before I had quite read it thro',
Sophy came into the room. I would
have conveyed it from her sight
but it was too late, my grief hav-
ing brought me to such a state of
insensibility, that she took it from
my hand without my being able to
prevent

prevent it. I was surprized to see with what composure she received the fatal tidings : forgetting her own concern, she endeavoured to lessen mine, by the most filial endearments : but this affected ease her strength could not long support. I was awakened from my stupor by an universal trembling which suddenly seized her. With difficulty I sustained her, till the servants came to my assistance. Violent faintings succeeded each other with little intermission. Judge the distracted state in which I was involved ; yet in her intervals was I obliged to appear before her with even a shew of cheerfulness.—Seeing the physicians more uneasy at her late symptoms, than I had ever till then observed them,

I insisted on knowing their real sentiments ; for, said I, if I am threatened with a blow, which to me will be worse than death, I conjure you tell me, that I may prepare to meet it with a resignation due to the divine Power who deals it.—After some hesitation, they told me it was their opinion my daughter's disorder proceeded from a sudden decay of her lungs, which might possibly baffle all their skill and diligence ; but still added, that there was a probability some of the medicines they had already given, and would farther prescribe, might yet succeed.—Heaven lent me resolution that moment, or no earthly consolation could have supported me.—Pardon me, madam, pardon a fond

and Lady Caroline S——. 115

fond mother, who (though with pain) loves to recount the precious minutes, as they flew, whilst she was blessed with the sight of her beloved child.—When her Grace was interred, Lord Henry sent word he intended being with us in a few days. Contrary to my own belief, I flattered myself his presence might give her spirits, if not health. So greedily do we grasp at the least shadow of hope, where a disaster is foreseen, that will certainly destroy our peace; little suspecting that we only climb a steep precipice, to make our fall the greater. — His Lordship's interview with her was affecting beyond imagination; he approached her with an assumed air of calmness; took her hand, his own trembling
fo

so that he could scarcely hold it; while passion struggling for vent, choaked the passage of his words, and he could only express himself in broken accents. Not being able to bear the conflicts of his soul in her presence, he left the room with precipitation. Go to him, my dear mother, go to him and comfort him, said she; his seeing me has, I fear, raised in his memory what can never be erased from mine. — Happy, that she did not attribute any part of his concern to the alteration in her own health: I told her, I did not expect he would so soon get the better of it, considering the tender duty he always bore her Grace. We must both, my love, endeavour to console him; and your being chearful will,

will, I am convinced, the soonest effect it.—Having said this, I went to seek his Lordship, and found, by the redness of his eyes, that his heart was just relieved by a friendly shower; and he listened with some degree of patience to the reasons I urged for a resignation to our fates, if they destined us to be unhappy.—

A fortnight after reduced her to such a state of weakness, that it would not permit her to leave her room; yet had she never mentioned to us, that she thought herself in the least danger. One morning, when she was remarkably chearful, Lord Henry, delighted at seeing a symptom, which he thought favourable, was proposing a journey to the Hot Wells at Bristol, when she could
bear

bear the fatigue of travelling. Your Lordship is very obliging, said she, interrupting him; but don't you really know, looking at us with a piercing serenity, that I am preparing myself for a journey of much higher consequence? We both guessed at her meaning, and sorrow kept us silent; whilst she thus proceeded. I was never superstitious, yet own my resolution was last night staggered by a dream, which I look on as ordained by Heaven, to warn me of my approaching dissolution.—Soon after I was retired to rest, a tranquil sleep took possession of my senses; when methought my dear, my ever honoured second mother stood before me. The splendor in which she appeared, dazzled my sight, and

I

I endeavoured to hide my face ; but advancing towards me, she took my hand, calling me by the tender name of daughter. Encouraged by the sound of a voice so dear to me, I lifted up my eyes. — The same bright benignant smile, that always shone upon her countenance, was heightened, not diminished. Her robe was transparently white, and the crown, that encircled her head, reflected so great a brilliancy, that like the sun it enlightened every thing around it. In one hand she held a golden harp, in the other a mirror. Upon the harp she made the most enchanting music ; singing the praises of her God in strains so melodious, that I could no longer restrain the extacy of my soul, but
joined

joined with her in chanting the same praises to the great Creator ; and was surprized to hear my own voice equally harmonious. All that fear and reverence, which had at first seized me, at sight of the shining vision, was now fixed on the omnipotent Power worshipped in my song, of Holy, Holy, Holy : these words I distinctly remember. The music ceasing, she held the mirror to my face, bidding me look on it. I obeyed ; but was so transformed, as to have no idea of myself, till the angelic form assured me, I saw no other. The reflection was more beautiful than fancy can paint. Whilst I stood in admiration, a robe was thrown over me, and a crown of light placed on my head, like
that

that of my once earthly, but now heavenly guide ; who told me I should soon be in reality, what at present I only saw in a transitory appearance. My joy and emotion were so great at these assurances, that I offered to seize one of her hands : she, knowing my intention, held it out to me. The clay-coldness of it awoke me ; when I found I had taken hold of the wood-work of my bed. — Here the dear creature ended. — Lord Henry's affliction was too big for utterance. — Watching her looks, I saw them alter ; — I saw his Lordship endeavouring to support her in his arms, which roused me from a fixed thoughtless stupor to a more expressive sorrow. — I insisted on his leaving the room, as

soon as we perceived the least sign of her return to life, lest the seeing him, in the agonies he then was, might throw her back to the same degree of insensibility, from which she was but just returning.—Three days were past in a dreadful uncertainty ; expecting each would terminate in the great event that threatened us. Seeing it now irretrievable, and being both in her room at the fatal moment, Lord Henry on his knees by her bedside, she took a hand from each, and first pressed one, then the other, to her dying lips, pronouncing these words, which were all she had spoke distinctly since her seizure. — Will you, my much loved Lord, the only one who has ever shared in your Sophy's affections,

fections, for my sake, for her own sake, cherish the best of women, and of mothers? I am called upon at this moment to join yours, from whom I have received tenderness truly maternal. — Let this comfort you, my Lord, and you my dearest mother, (throwing her arms about my neck) that I am assured by her I shall be blessed,—blessed beyond even what you yourselves could wish or imagine. She then recommended, in the strongest terms, her brother to his care; desiring he would be his protector and instructor through the difficult paths of youth, which he knew how to tread with such noble exactness. My Lord, with a fervency near to devotion, assured her he would only

live to obey every command of hers ; for, said he, bathing her hand with his tears, is not your mother, my dearest life, already mine ? shall not then your brother be my brother ? While they live will I admit of no other consolation, than in striving to promote their happiness.—At this a grateful smile took possession of her countenance, indicating an inward peace, receiving the only addition it could receive, and in less than an hour she expired, without nature's offering the least struggle to detain her soul from the hands of its Maker. — I find myself incapable of dwelling longer on this subject ; besides, was I to attempt it, it would be impossible for me to describe my situation : forgive me then, if I pass
it

it over in silence. The Duke survived his Dutcheſs but a twelve-month, and no reconciliation taking place between your father and him, at his death every thing that was not entailed with the Dukedom devolved by will on Lord Henry. The fortune, noble and unincumbered, was worthy ſo generous a poſſeſſor. His Lordſhip going abroad ſoon after for the recovery of his health, which ſuch a ſeries of painful events had much impaired, did not return till your Ladyſhip was five years old ; in his abſence often favouring me with affectionate marks of his remembrance. Every letter repeated the name of my daughter, whom he ſtill lamented. Her laſting injunctions (ſaid his Lordſhip,

in one I received when he had been from England more than three years) are always present with me ; in public they are my constant companions, and share my most social hours ; in private they are the friends who lead me on to higher contemplations, where I am lost in pursuing the image of her who gave them birth. —I resided in London the time his Lordship was abroad, that I might have the satisfaction of being near my son, who, I was informed, had made a surprizing proficiency in his studies.

I now began to look on myself as on one who had hoarded vast treasures in different parcels, all equally valuable and dear to him. With secret delight his eyes were constantly

stantly contemplating their worth; declaring, were he to lose any one of them, it would make him miserable. At length a cruel enemy stole into his house, armed so as not to be resisted, and took from him first one treasure, then another, till he had despoiled him of the whole, except one little casket, which the relentless robber had not yet seized. This unforeseen accident made him completely wretched; he refused comfort, giving his soul up to a desponding grief. Not once reflecting on the little casket, he was sinking for want of support, when it offered itself to his memory. Surprized that he had so long neglected it, he flew to the place where it was deposited, and found it contained immense

riches, which, though not all the sums he was once possessed of, were sufficient to make him sustain their loss with more resignation. — Like him too I lifted up my heart in grateful acknowledgments to the divine Disposer of Mercy, for not suffering the despoiler, Death, to take from me the whole of those treasures with which his bounty had enriched me.

I felt the most exquisite pleasure on your uncle's return to England, to find his health perfectly restored, and to see him enjoy, in some measure, his usual chearfulness, though often interrupted by moments of severe melancholy. — His Lordship soon after his arrival conducted you to Chelsea school, and has often declared

clared to me, that he felt a paternal fondness for you which he was afraid you did not receive sufficient proofs of from your natural parents.

—My sister's person, would he say, is lovely ; she has a great share of good sense ; but this, like the morning sun when obscured by a cloud, is for the present overcast by her foibles. — Indeed, my dear Lady Frances, a time must come when the love of admiration will cease ; for that is the thorn which prevents those seeds of tenderness, which nature always sows in a parent's bosom, from appearing. When they are removed, her warm sense, aided by reflection, will ripen those seeds into flowers.—On my resolving to leave London, Lord Henry consent-

ed to honour once more with his presence my small retreat in the country. And it being near the time when young gentlemen are permitted to follow their diversions with their friends for six weeks, we took my son with us, who was then fifteen. Notwithstanding the difference in their ages, Lord Henry made him the partner of his diversions, as well as studies, petitioning me to enlarge the time limited for his return to school to three months. To this I readily assented, knowing the great delight his Lordship had in instructing him, and the example he would have before him to form his mind to every manly virtue.— As we were one day talking on indifferent subjects, I happened to
mention

mention a young gentleman of distinction, who, I heard, had just bought into the regiment once my husband's. My son replied, he knew him perfectly well, that he was always extremely kind to him, and had left Westminster school but a few months. I observed, whilst he was speaking, his eyes sparkling with uncommon pleasure, strongly enforced his approbation of the step Mr. Monkton had taken. This account was by the next post confirmed in a letter Charles received from him. The purport of it was, That he had chosen the only way of life capable of making him happy, and politely desiring a correspondence might be kept up between them. When I had read it, he

seemed going to speak with earnestness, but hesitated as if wanting resolution to proceed. The reason of it was explained to me a few days after, when, as I was walking in the garden, Lord Henry joining me, said he had a boon to ask that he almost despaired of my granting, and owning he thought it an unreasonable one. I begged his Lordship would not entertain so mean an opinion of me, as to imagine I was capable of refusing any thing he should condescend to ask, where he knew he might command.—Then, madam, I will presume on your goodness, said he : having for this week past observed my dear Charles to be thoughtful, I resolved, if possible, to learn from himself the reason
son

son of so sudden a change, in which I have just succeeded. It was with some difficulty he acknowledged himself perplexed between his duty to you, and a wish he had entertained of following Mr. Monkton's example, by purchasing a commission in the army. At the same time he declared he had rather die than disoblige you, and would never mention it, if he thought it would occasion you a moment's pain ; adding, that if your approbation could possibly be obtained, it would make him the happiest creature in the world.—I foresaw the difficulty you must have in complying with his request, and for that reason tried every argument I was master of to dissuade him from it. He appeared quite satisfied, but
earnestly

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earnestly desired I would hint it to you, saying, that if he then found you averse to his designs, he would immediately drop them, determined to consult nothing in his future conduct but your satisfaction, which should be always dearer to him than his own.—I was greatly moved by such expressions of filial duty from so young a mind, which prevailed on me to propose it.—Could my Sophy look down from the mansions of the blessed, how might she glory in such a brother!—This was the only time I had ever heard him speak of her since her death. He seemed then so softened by this reflection, that, to turn the bent of his thoughts from that subject, I delayed not to assure him, that as
my

my son had *his* sanction, and I found his future peace depended on *mine*, I would not withhold it from him. That his joy might be perfect, I begged his Lordship would let him know I granted it chearfully; who was pleased to thank me in the genteelest terms. My son just then coming into the garden, was acquainted by him that he had my permission to follow his inclinations; for which he made a thousand returns of affection and gratitude.— Every thing being settled to his infinite joy, it was determined, by the advice of our best friend, to place him at an academy till a vacancy should happen in Col. N——'s regiment, preferred by Charles for two reasons: first, that it had been
his

his father's, whose example he should glory in imitating; next, that he should then share the toil and honour of his profession with Mr. Monkton, for whom he expressed a steady regard not common to his years.—Feeling the infirmities of age creeping on, which would hinder me from taking journeys of so considerable a length as the house I lived in was from the metropolis, and knowing that I should there enjoy more of Lord Henry's and my son's company, the former being almost as dear to me as the latter, I got over every objection to be blessed with it, even that of selling my paternal estate. This I did with less reluctance, as his Lordship, on having my inclinations hinted to him, immediately

immediately proposed becoming the purchaser, telling me, that my son, when of age, should, if it was his choice, again possess it on the same terms. It was valued at eight thousand pounds, and the money being lodged in the Bank, where great part of my fortune was before deposited, I yielded it up to his Lordship, and soon after went to town. — We waited three years before a vacancy offered for my son to purchase, when Lord Henry insisted on presenting the young soldier with his first commission. — What immense obligations! but these are not half I owe his generosity, which nothing but those of his tenderness can equal. — The regiment being in a few months ordered for Scotland, though

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though I knew he would not be exposed to immediate danger, yet I tormented myself with thinking I should see him no more. The fate of his father came every moment fresh to my memory, and peace was a stranger to my bosom, till his letters made way for a train of more pleasing ideas. But all my care was amply rewarded by the joy I felt at his return, after an absence of two years. When raised to the rank of captain, and his regiment quartered at Guildford in Surry, I was happy in having him often with me.—The morning he came of age, Lord Henry's steward sent in his name, and being instantly admitted, delivered to my son a letter, saying, that would inform him of his business.

ness. As no words can add value to an obligation conferred in so noble a manner, let it speak its own inimitable generosity :

“ *Dear Charles,*

“ I have sent Reynolds with the
“ writings of the estate I some years
“ since purchased of Mrs. Worth-
“ ley, with an intention of restor-
“ ing it to you when you came
“ of age. He will refund all the
“ rents since it has been in my pos-
“ session. I hope you will find me
“ not an unprofitable steward ; for
“ in this affair you must consider
“ me in no other light. — I intend
“ dining with you, and congratu-
“ lating myself on this day’s happy
“ event. But one thing I shall in-
“ sist

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“ list on, (you know, my dear
“ Charles, I am peremptory) which
“ is, that you don’t mention a syl-
“ lable of what has past this morn-
“ ing. In complying with my re-
“ quest you will highly oblige

“ *Your affectionate*

“ Henry S——.”

See, madam, said my son, giving me the letter, see how greatly we are oppressed by new benefits ! yet does our kind benefactor refuse the poor tribute of thanks.—I cannot express the gratitude our hearts were filled with, which, in obedience to his commands, we endeavoured to restrain.—I believe he saw it in our looks ; for taking a hand from each,
not

and Lady Caroline S——. 141

not a word, my good Mrs. Worthley, not a word, my dear Charles, of what has past, or I am gone this instant. Thus were we constrained to pour out our acknowledgments in secret, because they rather distressed than gratified the worthiest of hearts.—The regiment, after having remained in England two years, was then ordered to Ireland, where it hath now been almost six. A long, long absence I have found it.

Now, madam, I have only this to add, that upon your Ladyship's return from school, your uncle perceiving you did not enjoy the liberty you deserved, formed a design, which he has at last executed, by making you mistress of Audley-Castle.

Castle. — When he first mentioned it to me, he said, he had but one difficulty, if the Duke and Dutcheſs conſented, which was the want of a companion of your own ſex. I thought an offer from me to attend your Ladyſhip would not be diſagreeable. He was pleaſed to accept it; and by his Lordſhip's deſire I came hither ſome days before you. He ſaid he intended to ſurprize his niece; for that your Ladyſhip ſhould not know, till your arrival, you was to have any other companion than himſelf.—

—The angel ended, and in my ear
So pleaſing left her voice, that I awhile,
Thought her ſtill ſpeaking, ſtill ſtood
fix'd to hear.

Lady

Lady LUCY WALTON to Miss
HAMILTON, *in continuation.*

I WILL now suppose you to have read Mrs. Worthley's narrative, and sufficiently admired the characters you find in it. — Does not Mrs. Wentworth, do not Harriet and Charlotte, wish to know the originals of such amiable pictures ; I'm sure you'll all envy me ; yes, my dear, you'll absolutely envy me, when I tell you I am acquainted with them, and have been honoured with their presence in this house. — But hush ! let me proceed with regularity to satisfy the impatience my heart tells me you suffer. — Remember, it is Lady Frances engages
your

your attention. Let it be fixed, as mine was when she continued to address me in this manner.

You now, madam, see me at my uncle's, happy in his affection, happy in the affection of Mrs. Worthley, destitute of no satisfaction either could procure for me.—Sometimes I should regret the unkindness of my father, and a sigh would escape me on recollecting my mother's determined neglect; for I had not received a line from either since my arrival at Audley-Castle. I was never permitted to indulge those painful reflections, when observed by my uncle, who immediately thought on new schemes of pleasure to conquer them. Suffex being a county where numbers of genteel families are settled,

tled, we were never at a loss for agreeable company of both sexes to form those parties his Lordship was continually proposing, and in which he always made one. Mrs. Worthley would sometimes favour us with her company, though she oftner declined it, saying, she had lost great part of her former relish for such diversions; yet was she a most chearful companion, and had an art peculiar to herself of communicating the same ease and freedom to all about her.—When the weather was fine, we generally attended Lord Henry in his evening excursions. During which, if Mrs. Worthley happened to be fatigued, we have sat down on the root of some old tree, there waiting till his Lordship

had finished his walk : and never did I think the minutes so agreeably filled up as with her charming conversation. The expanded views, the lovely objects around us, opening a fine field for such reflections as always came from this favourite of Providence, which has given her a soul capable of relishing its most refined delights. Nor are any of its lowest works unnoticed or unadmired by her. Being one evening prevented from sharing in this pleasing amusement by her having a cold, and his Lordship being gone out, I proposed piquet. We had scarce played two deals, when he returned.—As you, madam, are an invalid, said he, here is a cordial which I am ordered to administer, giving

giving her a letter. Looking on the superscription, the cards dropped from her hand. — Certainly, my Lord, she replied, whilst breaking the seal, Providence has made you the bearer of its most welcome blessings to me ; for hitherto from your hand have I chiefly received them. But your Lordship can tell me, shall I find my dear Charles well. — He writes me he is perfectly so, returned my uncle ; and if this gives you so much pleasure, you will very soon experience still greater. Whilst he spoke, she was reading it to herself. How was every feature informed by her heart to speak those sensations by which it was affected. — After she had read a few lines she could proceed no further ; but clasping

H 2

her

her uplifted hands together in extatic rapture, 'Thank God ! thank God ! she cried, I shall once more see my dear, dear child ; large drops of joy streaming from her full eyes. Then, presenting it to his Lordship, she begged he would favour her with the contents. The stile it was wrote in forced attention ; so grateful, so tender, so elegant, that in every sentence was discovered the affectionate son, the warm friend, the polite and sensible companion. Its purport was, that he had succeeded to the majority in Col. N——'s regiment, hoped to visit England in a few months, and should then take the earliest opportunity of paying his thanks and duty where they were most demanded, and of congratulating

lating his mother on her present happy situation. — This letter made our little society enjoy more perfect felicity, nor do I believe mine was the least. I tenderly loved Mrs. Worthley, which made me partake of her joy, as the time approached for expecting her son's return.— Another six months elapsed, and no letter from my father or mother, nor so much as the slightest enquiries after my health.— When the anniversary of my birth drew near, my uncle declared he would celebrate it with an entertainment the most magnificent that could be procured. Invitations were sent to all the neighbouring families, and nothing omitted that could make it compleatly elegant. The house was

filled with a most noble appearance, every one striving to outvie each other in dress and splendor. A concert by the best hands was just concluded, when a servant whispered his Lordship, who immediately left the room. Soon after a message being delivered to Mrs. Worthley, she did the same. — I was wondering what it could mean, when the door opened, and she returned, followed by my uncle leading a young gentleman. — Had I examined her looks, this mystery would have been instantly explained ; but I own my eyes were fixed on the stranger. — Indeed the eyes of all present seemed directed to the same object. An unspeakable grace both in his person and movement disclosed at once all the advantages

advantages of education, and a mind to which the principles of honour were familiar, enlivened by the most striking air of natural vivacity.— Such appeared Mr. Worthley when my uncle introduced him. His Lordship having presented him to me, and to the rest of the company, he returned our compliments in a manner engagingly amiable. My uncle calling on me soon after to open the ball, said to Mr. Worthley, now, Charles, give us an opportunity of judging whether Ireland has improved the genteel air you carried with you from England ; and immediately led him towards me. Whilst we were dancing, every eye was busy in observing, every tongue in extolling him for perfections too visible to be overlooked. I fancied myself

envy of my own sex for having engrossed so agreeable a partner, and was sorry, when he would have engaged me for the remaining part of the evening, that I had before accepted the hand of Lord R—. When the company were withdrawn, I was present at a scene in which affection, duty, and friendship, were the principal actors.— Mrs. Worthley's joy was no longer restrained by the presence of strangers, or the fear of intruding it on them.— Lord Henry held him in his arms with the tenderness of a father, whilst he seemed divided, to which he should first make those returns, of which every word and every action confessed his heart to be full.—His Lordship protested it
would

would be selfish in us to know so much satisfaction without making it general to as many as chose to partake of it, and Audley-Castle was for some weeks the seat of festivity, where all persons, of what rank soever, found an equal welcome, with diversions suited to their capacities.—Among the ladies who favoured us was Lady Mary Framp-ton, agreeable in her person, finely accomplished, always lively, easy, and pleasing without design. She was Mr. Worthley's partner the first evening of his arrival, and at several succeeding balls, when it became an observation of many present, that by a similitude of manners they seemed formed for each other.—He had been with us near a month ; I

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enjoyed his conversation (which his modest yet great sprightliness rendered so desirable) without restraint, thought on his good qualities with pleasure, and often examined my heart why that pleasure was so exquisite; but was always made easy by its assuring me it proceeded only from a knowledge of them, and that I might encourage it without fear of its passing the boundaries of friendship.—My uncle one day asked him, as we were talking on this subject, if it was possible for a young gentleman of his taste, who had seen the beauties of three nations, not to have selected one worthy of his affection? I was anxious for an answer, could hardly forbear repeating my uncle's question; and examining

aming his countenance, thought I there saw it given in the affirmative.—I felt my face glow, when, with an air of diffidence, he replied—Numbers, my Lord, of amiable women have I seen equally deserving admiration ; but she that particularly engages mine, is one, whose favour I have no hopes or pretensions to possess.—I imagined he saw my confusion ; for he hastily withdrew his eye from me, unperceived by any but myself. On applying to my oracle for the reason of its uneasy flutterings, I found they were owing to my curiosity to know who the lady was that he so plainly pointed at, and being convinced all was safe, I summoned resolution enough to ask him, to which of the three na-

tions he owed his happiness? — Can your Ladyship suppose, returned he, that having the honour of knowing the most exalted minds as well as lovely persons in my own, I can, after that, give the preference to another? — At this instant Lady Mary stood before me, perhaps more beautiful than even her lover's imagination could have painted her, and I yielded the prize of a heart I thought truly valuable, to her charms. — If I sighed at that moment, it was because I wished their happiness lasting, while mine must be for ever precarious. — As he always spent the morning with us either in the library or walking, I was the more surprized at not seeing him one day till the dinner-bell had rung. — Lord Henry,

the moment he came into the room, began to rally him : he pleaded that he had been busily engaged in writing, and had not observed how the hours flew that robbed him of the honour he used to have in attending us, till alarmed by the general summons. — As this is the case, Charles, said his Lordship, I judge you have been writing on very interesting affairs. — Again I was uneasy, again perplexed—but it was for Mr. Worthley, whom I saw so much confounded, that scarcely could he command an answer. If it is to a friend of his own sex, thought I, why did he blush—why did he hesitate?—if to a woman, why does he not own his regard, and make her happy ? has he any obstacles to surmount ?

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mount? will not Mrs. Worthley rejoice to embrace the daughter of his choice? Perhaps I was mistaken; perhaps some lady abroad engages his affections, and to her he has been making a thousand vows of fidelity. Poor Lady Mary! I now see you was only a pretence to hide his real inclinations. — With these and such reflections was my mind filled the whole time of dinner. We had not sat long after it, when a servant brought me a Canary bird he had just caught. I was carrying it back to an apartment from whence it had flown that morning, when in passing Mr. Worthley's dressing-room, my prisoner escaped, and took shelter in it. His closet door being on a-jar, it flew in thither. I heard its wings
flutter

flutter against the window, and thinking myself now sure of catching it, and quite free from interruption, having left the gentlemen proposing to play at chess, I followed it, when a letter lying open on the table attracted all my notice. The chair still remaining, the standish not removed, convinced me it must be that which he had been writing in the morning, and had occasioned him so much confusion, me so many fruitless suggestions. What in this situation could I do? honour bid me decline looking at it; curiosity, that now seemed to have filled my heart in her place, pressed for my reading it, representing, that of what nature soever the contents might be, they should remain a secret

cret in my own bosom. — I took it in my hand, then laid it on the table in the same position I had found it. — Again I drew it towards me, and again determined not to read it. My own name, that by accident I saw on it, surprized me; and hurried on by an impulse stronger than my resolves, they grew weaker, and at last incapable of resistance. — No Lady Mary Frampton, no lady abroad was the subject of it, it was I whom he loved, it was for me he expressed what I imagined he felt for another. — A preference so delicate, so ardent, as none but a man of the most refined sentiments could have penned. — It was addressed to the same Mr. Monkton mentioned so particularly by Mrs. Worthley, whose

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whose advice he called for, but insisted on its not being given contrary to his determinations, which were fixed never to divulge the secret to any other than himself.— Advise me, my friend, said he, advise me to fly from a precipice where my honour is in danger of being crushed by a fall it never can recover.—At a distance I may think on her without being criminal; for is it not highly so, to indulge myself in a passion for the daughter of a prince, whom I must not hope to possess.—For supposing, even supposing she would condescend to listen to it, you know the obligations I owe Lord Henry. Ought I to return them by endeavouring to seduce the affections of his niece,
whom

whom more than his own life he loves? forbid it gratitude! forbid it all the laws of hospitality! Three times had I read it over, without once considering where I then was, or the accident that brought me thither. Still holding it in my hand, my eyes and senses were so attentively fixed, that I heard not the foot-step of Mr. Worthley, who then entered the closet. Ready to sink, and pale with shame, I started at his presence. My trembling hand dropped the letter, and without knowing my own design, I made directly to the door. — Stop, madam, said he, I beseech you stop. As you are acquainted with my crime, be witness also of my repentance. I heard nothing distinctly;
my

my head was seized with a sudden dizziness, and I fancied he was upbraiding me with my guilty curiosity, till I again heard him repeat the same words, and found he obstructed my passage on his knees.—I could make none but broken incoherent apologies. What would I not have given for one tolerable excuse! I really believe the first fatal instance of curiosity was never attended by a more sincere repentance.—I reflected on the innocent bird, I reflected on the servant who brought it me, but most of all on my own weakness, which could not withstand the force of an unlucky temptation.—He, seeing my confusion, endeavoured to lessen it by the most respectful distance, declaring I ought
not

not to blame myself, but to let the whole fall on him ; first, for his presumption in loving me, next, for his unhappy negligence, which having just recollected, he was returning to rectify.—I listened to him till my fault, which before appeared in the most gigantic frightful form, was almost lost in the genteel excuses he made for it ; and I protest I had half forgiven myself, when he thus continued to address me.—Since chance has discovered to your Ladyship a passion which nothing but chance ever should have discovered, I can for this reason solicit your pardon with greater hopes of obtaining it ; and I here promise, as the most painful and only punishment adequate to my offence, that I will keep steady to my
resolutions

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resolutions of never more presuming to repeat it.—Say, madam, my presumption is forgiven, then shall you from this time see, that I will study to deserve such admirable generosity.—I protest I know not how to account for my being so very silly; but so it was, that the words themselves, or the air with which they were pronounced, or both together, had such an effect on me, that I could only reply, If you wish it, Sir, leave me—leave me instantly.—This I said, that he might not be witness of a second weakness, finding I could not refrain from giving very eminent proofs of it; which, for the world, I would not have discovered before him. I believe he saw
my

my consternation; and that he might not increase it, politely thanking me, he immediately left the closet. I knew not what it was best to do; to go so soon after him would be wrong; to stay longer in his apartment equally wrong.—I saw my little bird carelessly pecking on the window, regardless of the dilemma it had been the cause of, and with a fluttering heart once more getting possession of it, retired to my own chamber.—

Having attended her Ladyship to the door of it, I shall leave you to enjoy with her a train of reflections, which she has owned to me gave her a secret pleasure, that
made

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that made full amends for her late
embarrassment.——

Adieu, my amiable Juliet,
says

Her sincere

LUCY WALTON.

Lady

*Lady LUCY WALTON to Miss
HAMILTON, in continuation.*

WHAT peremptory creatures
are these brothers! how do
you think mine has served me?
Why, I'll tell you.—Soon as we had
breakfasted, Sir William Hamilton
being of our party, I sily gave them
the slip, intending to continue my
favourite employ; and had just pla-
ced myself at the table, folded my
paper, and considered on what I
was to write, when I felt my pen
snatched from my fingers, as if by
an invisible hand. On rising from
my chair I could see no one near
me; till my brother, laughing a-
loud,

loud, stepped from behind it. Going to chide him for interrupting me, he disarmed my anger by saying, a messenger from Ashley was below, and would deliver his letters into no other hand than mine. — You may imagine I hastened down; he followed me. When I came into the room where I had left Sir William, my father, and him, my father was gone out; so only Sir William remained. I rung the bell for your servant to be admitted, when neither of them could rein-in their mirth, and owned that it was all a trick of my plotting brother's to get me down, in hopes I would give them my company to the Park; At the same time his Lordship brought me my hat and cloak; and

telling me my chair was at the door, I complied. So you now see I am not always at my own disposal.—

Another invitation from Lord Edgmoore, which my brother tells me he is determined to accept, and says, it is on important business that he wants to see him. I did not ask of what nature, not half liking his great intimacy with this young nobleman. — Sir William's persuasions will perhaps have more weight than mine in this affair; for those letters, by which you so kindly introduced my brother to him, when in Italy, have formed a friendship between them, which promises to be as sincere and lasting as our own. I dare say he will not refuse his interest on
this

this occasion ; for not only myself, but my father is uneasy that my brother gives up so much of his time to this new (and, if the world's censures do not wrong him, unworthy) acquaintance. So lately too at Heartley-Abbey, only returning from it the day Lady Frances left me.—Don't chide, my dear.—Methought I heard you ask why I detained you so long from her Ladyship. I have done, and she continues her narrative.—

From this hour Mr. Worthley avoided every opportunity of being alone with me. I began to think his regard was, by my own foolish conduct, changed into indifference, if not dislike ; yet, when I recol-

lected his words, as he left the closet, and compared them with an inclination to please, which appeared in all his actions, I could not help telling myself, that, instead of proceeding from that cause, his generosity and timidity occasioned it. As we were one afternoon going to visit at Sir James Medbury's, my uncle, as usual, gave Mrs. Worthley his hand to the coach, Mr. Worthley at the same time leading me; when, as she was stepping into it, her foot slipped. Growing pale and faint, we all thought her ankle had been dislocated. Mr. Worthley bid one of the servants dismount, and getting on his horse, flew like lightning to the next town for a surgeon. My uncle could not prevent him,
his

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his duty seemed to have added swiftness to his horses feet, and in a moment we lost sight of him. — A chair was ordered, to carry Mrs. Worthley to her apartment: but while we were helping her into it, the servants who surrounded to take her up, gave a great shriek; which became general, on seeing the horse Mr. Worthley had mounted coming towards us on a full gallop, the saddle and bridle loose, tossing his head and neighing frightfully. — Lord Henry and the servants were instantly dispersed, some on foot, others on horseback. I with the rest was running forward as fast as my legs would carry me; my wild confusion having taken from me all manner of reflection: 'till looking back,

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I saw the person who just before had employed my whole tenderness sitting alone, wringing her hands, her wan countenance expressing the distraction of her tortured soul.— Then upbraiding myself, I returned with greater swiftmess than I had deserted her, threw my arms about her neck, but had no comfort to bestow. We waited in silence near ten minutes, in which time I went as often to the turning of the road, with hopes of bringing her news less dreadful than her apprehensions, but as often returned disappointed. When my uncle came within sight, his looks spoke, before his voice could reach us, and from them we learned the accident had not been fatal. He told us Mr. Worthley
had

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had received a blow, which for some moments deprived him of sense, but now was much recovered, and in our hearing ordered the coach to meet him, telling Mrs. Worthley he had proposed coming back to the castle on horseback, which my uncle said he had absolutely forbidden. Whether she believed this account I know not; but the pain of her ankle being much abated, with mine and his Lordship's assistance she went to her room, her spirits greatly oppressed. —Fearful that he had been too favourable in speaking of Mr. Worthley's danger, I ventured to tell him my conjectures, and then found I had not been wrong in them. The blow was a contusion on his head,

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from which the surgeon, on examining it, saw no ill consequences, unless attended with a fever. Mrs. Worthley soon knew the worst, and and full of thankfulness that his life was preserved, could never be prevailed on to leave his bedside. A fever, the effects of which were so dreaded, came on the day after his fall, while increasing symptoms threatened it to be more violent. I every hour sent to enquire for him ; would sometimes steal to the door, and there listen till fear of being discovered drove me from it. —His disorder coming to a crisis, I was doubly unhappy. My reflections, embittered with the thoughts how it might end, and those reflections, embittered as they were, almost

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most my only companions ; my uncle giving up more of his time to Mr. Worthley as the physician seemed to apprehend more for his life. Whenever his Lordship was present, I tried at an air of unconcern. Like a poor wretch labouring under some dreadful disease, and frightened at a remedy that appears to him desperate, he groans in secret, keeping his pain so long to himself, that what at first medicine might have reached, becomes incurable through his own neglect in not revealing it. My pretended moments of ease always vanished with him, and my former terrors returned fresh pointed to my bosom. — One day ruminating on the uncertainty of all human happiness, experienced by that

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sublime philosopher Seneca, whose fine system of morality lay open before me, I was reclining my head on my hand, and had my eyes fixed on the book, when my uncle entered.—Poor Charles! said he, I fear there is no hopes of his recovery. Those alarming words at once divested me of my disguise; my tears began to flow, and without regarding his presence, I exclaimed, “What then shall we all do!—
“how will my dear Mrs. Worthingley be able to support it.”—
“How, Fanny! what shall we all
“do!”—putting on a stern look, different from that compassionate one which the instant before overspread his countenance — “What shall we all do! — you astonish me,

me, child ! — I am sorry for Mr. Worthley ; but as we are neither of us related to him by the ties of blood, for what reason should his death so much affect you ?"—His manner more than his words surprised me : I looked steadfastly at him, as if I suspected them to come from an impostor ; but on seeing they were delivered from lips which till then had never uttered a sentiment friendship itself might not have pronounced, I redoubled my grief, as if I meant to atone for his first offence against it.—An alteration as sudden as the former now happened : sitting down, and placing me by him, his eye beaming out its usual serenity, Come, tell me, my dear, putting his arm about me, if I have not in-

curred your anger? It is in vain to deny what that half-averted face and those tears have already discovered: nor am I displeased at the dislike you shew to such marks of unsteadiness as I just now betrayed.—Yet be assured I had my reasons for it, and would not that my dear Worthley should die, if every thing I am possessed of could add one year to his life, which I hope is at present in no danger. This was a sound so foreign from what I expected, that I imagined my uncle had seen thro' the secret of my heart, and taken this method to surprize me into a confession of it: nor was I deceived in my surmises, as the sequel of our conversation will evince. A delirium, pursued my uncle, natural to
Mr.

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Mr. Worthley's case, seized him, whilst I was sitting by him. At first he only talked with wild incoherency, not dwelling a moment on one subject.—At length, starting up in his bed, he addressed himself to you, as if he had seen you standing before him, called on you to forgive him, talked of obligations to me, a closet, letter, and Canary bird. But still he returned, as if his thoughts had never wandered from you. This gave me a suspicion I had not before entertained, that he loves you, and that his prudence prevents him from declaring it.—If then I have been guilty of a little artifice, it was to discover your sentiments. Can you, do you judge me unworthy your confidence? If
not,

not, think you are speaking to your own heart, and tell it, whether all that emotion I have been a witness of, proceeded from your regard for Mrs. Worthley, or if a tenderer feeling than friendship did not partly occasion it. — On my knees I would now have explained the whole affair, and sought his pardon for concealing it; but raising me from that posture, and taking me in his arms, What means this humility? why do you blush? why do you tremble? My dearest child, if it gives you pain, I will not press you farther. — Begging he would suffer me to proceed, and again being seated by him, I began with the good opinion I formed of Mr. Worthley from the first moment I saw him;
proceeding

proceeding to my uneasiness, when I fancied he preferred another woman—my guilty curiosity, repeating, as near as I could remember, the purport of his letter—my being surprised whilst I held it in my hand; his disinterested and respectful behaviour; his words as he left the closet; and, lastly, the assiduity with which he had ever since avoided being alone with me.—His Lordship listened attentively, not once interrupting me. Frequently I sent my eye towards him, but could perceive no alteration in his looks, which were fixed, as if thinking on something very important. Soon as I had ended, he rose from his chair, and without replying, went directly to the door. As he left me, I heard him
say,

say, What a hard part have I now to act! direct me heaven! — Imagining he was displeased, and that I was no longer dear to him, the supposition almost distracted me. But is not my uncle (still arguing with myself) a just and good man; and can a just and good man love any but the deserving? sure then he will not cast me from him, because I admire in another those virtues which I reverence in him: virtues he has often pointed out to me; virtues which I know to be partly the production of his own example. Here my reasonings were agreeably put an end to by his returning to me, and addressing me with looks more tender, with words more affectionate than ever. I have considered,
my

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my dear, said he, on what with such pleasing frankness you just now disclosed to me, as well as on what I have learned from Mr. Worthley. —Now, Fanny, you shall have the advice of a man, who, though he has made a single life his choice, and is advanced in years, is not altogether unexperienced in these matters. You are no stranger to my tenderness both for Mrs. Worthley and her son. In the daughter of the one, in the sister of the other, were blended all perfections which mind or person ever boasted. For her sake I first loved them ; since which by their merit they have constantly added something to that love, till it is arrived at a height transcending friendship, equalling what I felt for
my

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my own mother when living, and what I should have for a son, had I ever been a parent.—When I first saw Miss Worthley, she had not passed the bloom of eighteen; and before I gave my heart to her, tho' a demand she justly claimed from all who beheld her, I debated with myself on the consequences with which it might be attended, were I to encourage the growing fondness with which I ever beheld her, from the first moment she was introduced to me by my mother, in whose affections I soon perceived she had rivalled me. At first I confined it to my own breast; but finding my passion stronger than my resolution, I discovered it to my mother, knowing Miss Worthley's exalted
notions

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notions would not permit her to receive my addresses contrary to her Grace's approbation. She, to whom my felicity was dearer than any other consideration, not only consented, but became my advocate.—Put yourself in my place at the time I have described ; for in this light you stand, Mr. Worthley in that of his sister : and I will go so far as to say, he is as nearly allied to her by virtue as by blood.—This then is the distinction.—You are an only child ; my father had many children ; therefore had I made an alliance with a person inferior to myself in point of birth, though in more essential ones every way my superior, his disappointment could not have been so severe. Notwithstanding
Mr.

Mr. Worthley is well descended, yet the want of a title (which in my opinion is not necessary to happiness) will I fear be thought an insurmountable obstacle by those, whose judgment must be decisive. In the next place, the customs of England are not so much in your favour, as they were in mine: being permitted by them to make the person I should marry a sharer not only in my fortune, but title. Now if a woman gives her hand to a man whose station is below her own, she is not allowed this advantage. Besides, it is a step that the world's censures are sure to follow: all will call it an imprudent one; but very few do you that justice your choice demands. Some for want of taste to distinguish merit,

merit, others from a motive common to every degree of people.— I have often wished, continued he, (seeing how much I was affected) to have been the happy father of such a daughter; but at this moment I more than ever wish it. Then would I shew the world, I chose for the depositor of my dearest treasure a good rather than a great man. My interest and advice, as your second parent, shall be yours on every occasion. — Feel for me, madam, what I then felt, or you must remain a stranger to my joy, as it surpassed all expression. — The conversation ended here, nor did he speak to me again on the same subject for near a fortnight, which a good deal surprized me. At last, I
am

am thinking, said he, one morning in a serious manner, of paying a charitable visit: will you, Fanny, promise to be my companion?—As it was no uncommon thing for him to make numbers of them, and that to the poorest cottages, I replied in the same strain, I should gladly attend his Lordship, in hopes to steal his art of dispensing peace and plenty; that if with diligence or observation I could attain it, I would then, by my readiness, try to compensate for my little skill in that branch, the most noble, most material business of our lives. — After some other talk, he appointed to meet me in my dressing-room at five in the afternoon, again reminding me of the hour when we met
at

at dinner.—Though he came something before the time, I was ready to attend him, and he led me toward the stairs : I had my foot on one step, when, drawing me back, Stop—stop, Fanny! he cried, that is not the way ; and in a moment I found myself at the door of Mr. Worthley's apartment. Laughing at my perplexity (for now I began to see where his charitable visit was designed, which not a little abashed me), Don't be apprehensive, my good girl, said he ; this is the first day that Charles hath sat up ; can you think he wants no cordial to give him spirits, after his long confinement ? I have prepared him for seeing you ; and be satisfied, when I declare, upon my honour, he
knows

knows nothing of what has passed during his illness. Some one coming from the room prevented my replying. On my entering it, I did not observe his looks; but am convinced my own were foolish enough. Mrs. Worthley kissing my hand, thanked me, as she led me to a chair, while he returned those congratulations I awkwardly made him on his recovery, with a genteel freedom, wherein pleasure was equally visible. We passed two hours in the most chearful conversation; for tho' much weakened and emaciated, he had lost none of his pleasing vivacity. Not for many weeks had I experienced such real satisfaction, and own I thought Mrs. Worthley a little unreasonable when she proposed

a walk in the grove. Though the time spent so agreeably was much too short, and I saw Mr. Worthley looked also disappointed, yet, on my uncle's seconding her proposal, saying he would be his companion till our return, we left the room. No sooner were we alone, than Mrs. Worthley's thanks were poured out in the warmest terms, my uncle having made her acquainted that morning with every circumstance I had related to him. After which she told me it was by his Lordship's desire that she had proposed walking, he having given her a hint when he would have us withdraw. I cannot remember the particulars of what passed in this conversation, only that by her endearing caresses she drew

from me, almost imperceptibly, a confession that I looked on her son's prepossession for me as the happiest event of my life. The moment my inclinations were confirmed, she threw aside the mother, and every other interested character, and assuming that of a friend and directress, her unprejudiced arguments, delivered with gentle energy, banished every dawn of hope from my bosom, and I promised to be governed by them. I entreated her to endeavour, by the same methods, to conquer his partiality, which nothing but insurmountable obstacles to an union with him, could make me wish to lessen. — Here, embracing me, she lifted up her eyes to heaven, seeming to implore its assistance;

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ance ; then gave additional reasons that had received new force and beauty from the heart in which they had been lodged, to strengthen those before advanced, and support me in my resolutions. When she was gone from me I found myself strangely agitated. What, thought I, have I done !—was there any necessity for my petitioning Mrs. Worthley to draw from me the affections of a man I love—the only one I ever have or ever can love !—May she not be too successful for my peace !—or, if I must lose him, why could I not myself (if he had ever more mentioned it) have represented the ill consequences that might arise from an indulgence of his passion ; softening what I fancy he

K 2

would

would have felt, by letting him see I took a part in his concern. Then again I longed to know what had made my uncle desire to be left alone with him ; but not being able to divine this, I resolved to wait contentedly till it should be his pleasure to inform me.—As nothing is so difficult to hide as a real regard, I perceived with pleasure, on Mr. Worthley's recovery, that his was not abated. We had now more of his company than before his health was impaired, not having thrown off the lassitude contracted from his long confinement. The weather one day being very sultry, I strolled into the most shady part of the wood, and there met him at the close of a walk opposite to that I was in. Good
manners

manners compelled him to join me ; and our conversation did not last long on indifferent subjects. This was the first time we had seen each other, without a third person being present, since the closet-affair. Some apologies were necessary on both sides ; and from thence he found an easy transition to the nature of his fault. Whether he saw I did not look on it as an unpardonable one, and should forgive a repetition of it, or that he thought this too favourable an opportunity to let slip, I know not, but certain it is, notwithstanding all his former promises, he renewed his declaration so successfully, that my satisfaction was too plain for concealment. Nor indeed could I wish by any disguise to lessen the

pleasure he discovered from being a witness of it. My uncle's fondness for him encouraged me to make these returns ; for had he been disagreeable to one who had given himself the greatest title to my duty, I would have strove to forget he had ever been dear to me. — He said, that on my retiring with Mrs. Worthley, my uncle disclosed to him his being master of our secret ; and instead of upbraiding, had promised him he would be the mediator with my father to receive him as a son ; since which he had experienced the severest conflicts within himself ; for though his Lordship had dealt so generously, he knew it must involve him in difficulties to attempt a thing of that nature. This consideration

deration, together with his mother's strenuous persuasions, had at last determined him to deserve our friendship, by cherishing in silence a passion he could never conquer, till this accidental meeting at once destroyed all his resolutions. — As we were less studious to avoid each other than before, my uncle soon observed what neither attempted to hide from him. One morning he gave me a letter, which being superscribed to my father, I received with mingled hope, fear, and expectation.—He then left me to peruse it, bidding me be candid in approving or disapproving the contents. Would it not have been doing injustice to the whole tenor of his other actions, this immense instance of his generosity

sity must have surprized me. Those praises which I found bestowed on myself, only affected me, as they came from the dearest, the most honoured of men. But those, of which Mr. Worthley was the subject, gave me other sensations. I dwelt on every line longer than might have sufficed to read the letter thro', and nothing but the hopes of having them continued, could take my attention from the first. He was represented by my uncle as the man he wished to see my husband.—His ancestors, said he, (speaking of his birth, fortune, and accomplishments) ranked with the highest order of nobility, yet is he himself a still greater ornament to the family from whence descended, though

some of them are mentioned by very celebrated historians as doing honour to their country.—His person handsome, his character free from vice, his judgment sound, tempered with humility; and, joined to all those advantages, he possesses a disposition communicative, mild, and affable. It is true, he has at present no title, and his fortune is less than you may expect for your daughter; but this, if you bless them with your consent, I have found the means to remedy. Every thing I am possessed of shall be theirs: I will, immediately on their marriage, give them up six thousand a year, with my house in Grosvenor-Street; the rest they shall enjoy at my death. This union is desired from a double motive;

motive; you know I tenderly loved Miss Worthley, and have ever had the same affection for her brother, and my niece, as if they were my own children, and as such, by your Grace's permission, they shall be always regarded by me. To these were added numberless other arguments: in short, none were omitted that could prevail on my father to accept this proposal. When I had read it, my uncle returned, and seeing both confusion and gratitude in my countenance, did not heighten the one by asking my opinion, nor suffer me to disclose the other in words the least adequate to so vast an obligation. Embracing me, he said, Well, my dear, I think, without your telling me, I can discover you
do

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do not disapprove what I have written. Then, as if this charming action wanted half its merit till it had given Mr. Worthley equal satisfaction, he instantly carried it to him.——

O, my Juliet! how greatly to be esteemed is this Lord Henry! his mind is all goodness; bountiful as the earth; enriched by nature, cultivated by education; and yields from the vine of innate principle the most fertile branches, whose generous fruit becomes a public good, and is tasted by all, except those, whose feet being entangled in the weeds of vice, are hindered from approaching it. — I wish he was not thus determined to live and die a bachelor.

—Well,

—Well, but now I must tell you that my brother set out this afternoon for Heartley-Abbey. What very important business can he have with Lord Edgmoore? I protest I am amazingly low; a sad encroacher is spleen. Yawn—yawn—yawn—sure there will be no end of it. How do I sigh to be with you at Ashley! but since in vain, I'll call on Miss Carlton; perhaps take an airing as far as Tooting, and then return with fresh spirits, to assure my dear friends at Ashley how much they may command their own

LUCY WALTON.

The End of the First Volume.

